

On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com Website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: 582-7800 Thursday, October 21, 2010



FILE - An undated file photo provided by the Ellis County Sheriff's Department, shows Hosam Maher Smadi. Smadi's sentencing hearing is scheduled for Monday, Oct. 18, 2010 in federal court in Dallas.

(AP Photo/Ellis County Sheriff's Department, File)

FBI: Would-be bomber said he'd die for bin Laden

By JEFF CARLTON,
Associated Press Writer

DALLAS — Before he pushed the button that he hoped would blow up a 60-story office tower and kill thousands of people, Hosam Smadi did two things that still bother FBI officials 13 months later. An undercover agent posing as an al-Qaida terrorist offered Smadi ear plugs. He declined, saying he wanted to hear the explosion. Then he used his cell phone to secure a ghastly souvenir — a final picture of the building before it blew.

The inside story of the investigation, compiled from court documents and interviews with FBI officials in Dallas, is a tale of how the FBI stayed ahead of the would-be terrorist, giving him a decoy bomb and preventing him from harming anyone.

Continued on Page A3



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Saudi prince in lurid murder case sentenced

GREGORY KATZ

Associated Press Writer

LONDON (AP) — Life in prison, with parole possible after 20 years. That was the sentence handed down Wednesday to a Saudi prince convicted of a killing so lurid it has shocked even London, with its long history of tawdry sex crimes dating back to Jack the Ripper.

The victim, Bandar Abdulaziz, had so many internal injuries,

including bleeding on the brain and a fractured larynx, that pathologists could not pinpoint the precise cause of death after his body was found in the posh Landmark Hotel.

Continued on Page A9

In this handout image issued by the Metropolitan Police, Bandar Abdulaziz, a servant who was killed by Saudi Prince Saud Abdulaziz bin Nasser al Saud.

Associated Press



A member of the crowd shows her support as recording artist Lady Gaga speaks at a rally in support of repealing the military's 'don't ask, don't tell' policy for gay service members, in Portland, Maine, on Monday, Sept. 20, 2010.

(AP Photo/Pat Wellenbach)

Troops discharged for being gay try to re-enlist

By ANNE FLAHERTY
JULIE WATSON,

Associated Press Writers

SAN DIEGO — At least three service members discharged for being gay have begun the process to re-enlist after the Pentagon directed the military to accept openly gay recruits for the first time in the nation's history.

The top-level guidance issued to recruiting commands last week and announced Tuesday marked a significant change in an institution long resistant and sometimes hostile to gays.

"Gay people have been fighting for equality in the military since the 1960s," said Aaron Belkin, executive director of the Palm Center, a think tank on gays and the military at the University of California Santa Barbara. "It took a lot to get to this day."

Continued on Next Page



Lieutenant Dan Choi, a gay Army officer honorably discharged under the Don't Ask Don't Tell policy, speaks to the media after attempting to re-enlist at the Times Square military recruitment station in New York October 19, 2010

TROOPS RE-ENLIST

Continued from Front Page

The movement to overturn the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy gained speed when President Barack Obama campaigned on its repeal. The effort stalled in Congress this fall and found new life last month when a federal judge in California declared it unconstitutional. The recruiting announcement came even as the Justice Department battles in the courts to slow the movement to abolish the 1993 Clinton-era policy.

U.S. District Judge Virginia Phillips rejected the government's latest effort Tuesday to halt her order telling the military to stop enforcing the law.

Government lawyers have said they will appeal.

The Defense Department has said it would comply with Phillips' order and had frozen any discharge cases. Pentagon spokeswoman Cynthia Smith said Tuesday recruiters had been given top-level guidance to accept applicants who say they are gay.

AP interviews found some recruiters following the order and others saying they had not heard of the announcement. Recruiters also have been told to inform potential recruits that the moratorium on enforcement of the policy could be reversed at any time, if the ruling is appealed or the court grants a stay, she said.

Gay rights groups were continuing to tell service

members to avoid revealing that they are gay, fearing they could find themselves in trouble should the law be reinstated.

"What people aren't really getting is that the discretion and caution that gay troops are showing now is exactly the same standard of conduct that they will adhere to when the ban is lifted permanently," Belkin said. "Yes, a few will try to become celebrities."

An Air Force officer and co-founder of a gay service member support group called OutServe said financial considerations are playing a big role in gay service members staying quiet.

"The military has financially trapped us," he said, noting that he could owe the military about \$200,000 if he were to be dismissed. The officer, who asked not to be identified for fear of being discharged, said he's hearing increasingly about heterosexual service members approaching gay colleagues and telling them they can come out now.

He also said more gay service members are coming out to their peers who are friends, while keeping it secret from leadership. He said he has come out to two peers in the last few days.

An opponent of the judge's ruling said confusion that has come up is exactly what Pentagon officials feared, and

shows the need for the judge to immediately freeze her order while the government appeals.

"Judge Phillips' refusal to grant an emergency stay is an incredible display of contempt for the constitution and our nation's military leaders who say overturning this law will be enormously disruptive for the men and women who defend our country," said Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research Council, a conservative advocacy group based in Washington that supports the policy.

The law's uncertain status has caused much confusion within an institution that has historically discriminated against gays.

Before the 1993 law, the military banned gays entirely and declared them incompatible with military service. There have been instances in which gays have served, with the knowledge of their colleagues.

Twenty-nine nations, including Israel, Canada, Germany and Sweden, allow openly gay troops, according to the Log Cabin Republicans, a gay rights group and plaintiff in the lawsuit before Phillips. The Pentagon guidance to recruiters comes after Dan Woods, the group's attorney, sent a letter last week warning the Justice Department that Army recruiters who turned

away Omar Lopez in Austin, Texas, may have caused the government to violate Phillips' injunction. Woods wrote that the government could be subject to a citation for contempt.

The White House has insisted its actions in court do not diminish Obama's efforts to repeal the ban.

In their stay request, government lawyers argue Phillips' order would be disruptive to troops serving at a time of war. They say the military needs time to prepare new regulations and train and educate service members about the change.

Phillips has said her order does not prohibit the Pentagon from implementing those measures. The judge also said safeguarding constitutional rights outweighed the government's unproven concerns of the order's impact on military readiness and unit cohesion.

"Defendants merely conclude, without explanation, that 'confusion and uncertainty' will result if the injunction remains in place," she said in her ruling Tuesday. "Thus, defendants have failed to establish they are likely to suffer irreparable injury if a stay is not granted."

Her decision will likely send the case to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco. □

Fort Hood gunman had nearly 200 rounds of ammo

By ANGELA K. BROWN

MICHAEL GRACZYK,
Associated Press Writers

FORT HOOD, Texas — An Army psychiatrist who went on a shooting rampage at Fort Hood still had nearly 200 rounds of ammunition and a second gun in his pockets when he was shot by police, a military court heard Wednesday.

The gunman had already fired nearly 150 rounds inside a crowded medical building on Nov. 5 from a semiautomatic weapon, killing 13 and wounding dozens, Army investigator Kelly T. Jameson testified at a hearing to determine whether accused gunman Maj. Nidal Hasan will stand trial.

Authorities believe Hasan only fired the semiautomatic because bullets recovered from the victims were from that gun, Jameson said.

Sgt. Mark Todd, a civilian police officer at Fort Hood, told the Article 32 hearing that after responding to a call of "shots fired," he saw a gunman outside a building and then saw the weapon's red laser sight pointing right at him.

"I said, 'Halt! Military police! Drop your weapon!'" Todd testified. Instead, the gunman "fired a couple of rounds." Todd said he yelled at the shooter again, and the two exchanged gunfire.

Todd said he knew he hit the gunman because he fell. Todd

said he then ran to him, kicked his gun away, handcuffed him and removed items from his pockets — including a revolver and ammunition clips. Todd said he checked his vital signs as medics arrived to begin treating the gunman.

Army investigator Duane Mitchell testified that two laser sights were affixed to the gun used in the shooting. The green one is used during daylight, and the red one aids in darker conditions, he testified. Authorities found receipts from Nov. 2 and Nov. 3 in Hasan's car for watch batteries, the same kind used to power the laser sights, Mitchell said.

During the hearing, now in its second week, only one witness



In this courtroom sketch, Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan, left, watches video testimony during his Article 32 hearing inside the U.S. Magistrate court Tuesday, Oct. 19, 2010 in Fort Hood, Texas.

(AP Photo/Pat Lopez)

testified to seeing the shooter firing two guns that day in the building where soldiers get vaccines and medical tests before deploying. Others said they saw one gun but gave different descriptions. Some said they saw red and green lasers; others saw just one color or neither.

Several witnesses at the hearing

have said the gunman in an Army combat uniform shouted "Allahu Akbar!" — "God is great!" in Arabic — then opened fire in a crowded waiting area. They say he kept firing rapidly, pausing only to reload, and shot people as they hid under tables or curled up in chairs — even shooting soldiers after they fled outside. □

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FBI - BOMBER**Continued from Front Page**

FBI officials offer a different portrayal of the meek, mild and apologetic young man who spoke politely to the judge during his two day sentencing hearing, which ended Tuesday with Smadi receiving 24 years in federal prison after pleading guilty to attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction.

"He absolutely believed he had found al-Qaida, was committing an act on the scale of 9-11 and that he was going to get away with it," Tom Petrowski, the supervisory agent who led the FBI operation, told The Associated Press. "He loved (Osama) bin Laden more than his parents. He said he would die for him, intended to die for him, expected to die for him. He believed to the core that this was his destiny."

The 20-year-old Jordanian man was arrested in September 2009 after Smadi left what he thought was a truck bomb in a garage beneath the Fountain Place building in downtown Dallas.

In his plea agreement, Smadi said he parked the truck, activated a timer connected to the decoy provided by undercover FBI employees, then rode away to watch the building fall.

When Smadi dialed a cell phone number from the roof of a nearby parking garage, he thought he was setting off his truck bomb. But it was the FBI's final trick. Instead of blowing up the building, the call alerted tactical agents hiding in a stairwell, who swarmed the rooftop and arrested the teenager.

"It went like clockwork," said Robert Casey, the special agent in charge of the Dallas division.

Thus ended months of

surveillance and planning that began when the FBI first took note of a teenager south of Dallas posting angry messages on a website frequented by Islamic extremists. Smadi, typing out his hatred for Americans and Jews, was looking for a group to help him wage a holy war.

"Where he stood out was that he said, 'I want to act,'" Petrowski said. "People have the right to speak the unspeakable, but he was actively looking for help."

Still, the FBI wasn't convinced Smadi meant business. He was a teenager working at a travel stop barbecue joint along the interstate near Italy, Texas. He had no criminal history, no terrorism ties and no means to carry out his vague plans.

After communicating by e-mail, an undercover FBI employee posing as a terrorist arranged the first of six in-person meetings with Smadi. It was a make-or-break moment. Either Smadi was blowing off steam on the Internet, or he was a genuine wannabe terrorist.

"At the first in-person, he really blew us away. His gut level of commitment was amazing," Petrowski said. "When he left that day, there was no question he was real. He had an ice-cold, unhesitating commitment to commit mass murder."

The bureau discussed simply deporting Smadi, whose visa paperwork was not in order. It would have been a simple and inexpensive solution, certainly less complex than trying to covertly monitor a teenager in small-town Texas.

But Smadi explicitly told undercover agents that, had he not met them, he would have continued his search for al-Qaida sleeper cells. And the FBI's behavioral analysts also predicted that Smadi, if sent

home, would try to connect with terrorists.

So the FBI tried something else: talking him out of it. The undercover employees told Smadi there were many ways he could commit jihad that didn't involve killing Americans. If Smadi had any "hesitation, doubt or fear ... we would depart now as friends and brothers in Islam without any anger at all," an agent wrote.

But Smadi said he wanted to cause "an attack that shakes the world," he wrote. The harder the FBI tried to talk Smadi out of it, the more firm he became.

"He kept coming back and reinforcing his commitment that he would do this," Casey said. "We created the opportunities. He bit on them."

Peter Fleury, one of Smadi's public defenders, contended that Smadi was ill but harmless. The FBI cultivated Smadi, Fleury argued, encouraging a lonely and isolated teenager every time he expressed interest in violence. They transformed a busboy into a terrorist, he said. "He wouldn't build a bomb," Fleury said dismissively.

But he did push its button. The office tower was not Smadi's first target. He first checked out a National Guard armory but decided he was setting his sights too low. Then he considered an airport but decided security was too high and that "it was not a good time to do airports," Petrowski said.

He settled on Fountain Place, a distinctive office tower of green reflective glass easy to identify in the Dallas skyline. Smadi liked the "beauty and conspicuousness" of the building, and believed that taking out a bank that leased space there would shake the U.S. economy, Petrowski said.



Al-Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden is living comfortably in northwest Pakistan close to his deputy Ayman al-Zawahiri, CNN has quoted a NATO official as saying

At his sentencing, Smadi denounced bin Laden as "a bad man." But as the day of the bombing neared, he made a martyrdom video in the hope that it would be played for the terrorist leader. He took hours to prepare his speech, fought back tears as he selected religious verses and then donned a kaffiyeh, an Arab headdress, before hitting record.

On Sept. 24, 2009, Smadi took possession of a black, four-door Ford Explorer pickup truck furnished by the FBI. In the bed of the truck were three large storage bins, with a fourth in the back seat secured by a seat belt. Inside were 550 pounds of explosives-grade fertilizer, along with nails and screws for shrapnel.

On top of the bins were fake C-4 plastic explosives and blasting caps, with green and yellow wiring. A timing

device connected to a cell phone was in the console in between the front seats.

Smadi, wearing a valet uniform, drove the truck into the visitor's garage beneath the office tower, parking beneath a "Bank Customers Only" sign.

As he walked up the ramp and out of the garage, however, Smadi realized a mistake. The visitor's lot was not directly beneath the building, but just off to the side. When he met with the undercover FBI employee who was parked in a nearby vehicle, he three times said he wanted to go back in and move the car to make sure it would drop the building.

The agent convinced him the bomb would work anyway, so the men drove to an aboveground parking garage, where Smadi dialed the phone that signaled the FBI to move in. □

Bond raised for NC stepmom of missing 10-year-old



NEWTON, N.C. — Dozens of investigators searched a North Carolina landfill Wednesday for evidence in the disappearance of a disabled 10-year-old girl, but said they didn't expect to find the girl's body there.

As Hickory police and FBI agents checked mounds of trash in Caldwell County, a judge at a nearby courthouse increased bond for the girl's stepmother, Elisa Baker, from

\$45,000 to \$65,000 after prosecutors convinced him she was a flight risk.

Catawba County District Judge Robert Mullinax Jr. said there were "disturbing and unsettling allegations" in the case as he dismissed a request by Baker's lawyers to reduce her bond on a charge of obstructing justice to \$10,000. Investigators said Baker wrote a bogus ransom note found Oct. 9, the day she and her

husband reported Zahra Clare Baker missing. Police have said they think the girl is dead, but have not found her body and haven't charged anyone with killing her.

At a news conference, Hickory Police Chief Tom Adkins said investigators were searching the landfill for a piece of evidence that's critical to establishing a timeline for Zahra's disappearance. Adkins said they didn't expect

to find her body in the mounds of trash but wouldn't elaborate on what they were looking for. Investigators said the day before they were seeking a serial number and other details about the artificial leg the girl used since surviving bone cancer.

The girl was last seen in public Sept. 25, but investigators want to know if anyone else outside the family had seen her more recently to fill in gaps in the case's timeline, Adkins said. While investigators believe Zahra is dead, they haven't ruled out the possibility she'll be found alive.

"We're continuing to have hope, but we're still calling it a homicide investigation," Adkins said.

Baker appeared at her bond hearing Wednesday by video camera, while three of her children were in the courtroom.

One adult daughter, Amber Fairchild, testified that they frequently moved when she was growing up and she was afraid of her mother.

Fairchild also said her mother her mother has been talking to a man from England on the Internet over the last year, and he sent her \$10,000. Zahra's father, Adam Baker, met Elisa Baker online and moved from Australia to live with her several years ago.

Fairchild said Baker told her she wanted to leave North Carolina the day before she was arrested.

Prosecutor Eric Bellas said Baker has routinely missed court appearances over the last 20 years on previous charges ranging from traffic offenses to communicating threats.

"The only time this defendant comes to court is when the sheriff's office brings her to court," Bellas said.

However, her defense attorney, Scott Reilly, argued that Baker's bond was already excessive before the judge raised it. Reilly said legal guidelines call for a bond of \$10,000 in obstruction cases, and he blamed media attention for causing the judge to exceed that. □



Fertility specialist Dr. Michael Kamrava prepares for a hearing before the California Board of Medical Examiners on possible suspension or revocation of his medical license, in Los Angeles Monday, Oct. 18, 2010. He is accused of 'grossly negligent' treatment of 'Octomom' Nadya Suleman and another patient.

(AP Photo/Reed Saxon)

Octomom's fertility doc testifies to save license

By SHAYA TAYEFE MOHAJER,
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — The fertility doctor whose in vitro treatments gave Nadya Suleman her octuplets tearfully began testimony Wednesday as he defended his methods in the fight to keep his medical license.

Dr. Michael Kamrava appeared shaken after being sworn in for the Medical Board of California's licensing hearing in downtown Los Angeles. He stammered and went silent on the stand before describing his emigration from his native Iran to the United States in 1968, at age 16.

The Beverly Hills doctor detailed his life decades before he helped Suleman have octuplets and six other children through in vitro fertilization.

"My family background is Jewish, and that was one of the reasons I came here," Kamrava said before stopping to wipe away tears.

The state licensing agency alleges that Kamrava was negligent in the treatment of Suleman and two other patients, and is seeking to revoke or suspend his license.

Witness Dr. Suraj Achar earlier testified that the doctor was very remorseful for his treatment of

Suleman. Achar visited Kamrava's office once to assess his record-keeping at the request of the fertility doctor's lawyer.

In their only meeting, Kamrava said he regretted the outcome of Suleman's pregnancy and that they discussed his strategies to reduce multiple gestation with future patients, according to Achar. In hearings this week, an expert witness for the state testified that Suleman's medical records show Kamrava implanted 12 embryos in the pregnancy that gave Suleman octuplets. National guidelines recommend no more than two embryos for a woman her age.

In less than eight years, Kamrava repeatedly performed in vitro fertilization for Suleman, implanting her with 60 fresh embryos that resulted in 14 children.

There are health risks associated with crowding in a mother's uterus that could endanger the mother and result in premature birth or other ailments for the babies.

The octuplets' birth in January 2009 was hailed by many as a miracle until details of Suleman's personal life became public, and concern grew for the safety of her 14 children. □

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Students allege police brutality after NY shooting

By JIM FITZGERALD,
Associated Press Writer

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. — Three college football players who saw a teammate get fatally shot by police outside a suburban bar were brutalized by officers and arrested when they tried to help their mortally wounded friend, their lawyer said Wednesday.

One player knows CPR and begged the police to let him try to save Danroy Henry, but instead "they put a gun to his ribs and they told him to back ... up or he would be next," attorney Bonita Zelman told The Associated Press.

She said the other two teammates were zapped with stun guns when they tried to intervene. They said Henry, "was on the pavement, handcuffed and dying, and no one was helping him," she said.

Kieran O'Leary, a spokesman for the Westchester County police, which made the arrests, said the department had received no formal complaint regarding excessive force.

"If we received one, we'd look at it," he said.

Zelman did not make allegations against specific officers, claiming some of them covered their badges.

Henry, 20, of Easton, Mass., was killed early Sunday by gunshots fired through his windshield after police were called to a disturbance that spilled out of a bar about 25 miles north of New York City. Many of the estimated 150 people at the scene in a shopping center in Thornwood were students from Pace University's campus in nearby Pleasantville, where the homecoming football game had been played on Saturday.

Police say Henry was parked in a fire lane outside the bar and sped off, hitting two officers, after a policeman knocked on his window. The father of one of Henry's passengers denies that an officer was hit and said Henry thought he was following police instructions.

Henry's relatives have announced they are skeptical of the police account and have hired civil rights attorney Michael Sussman.

Four of Henry's teammates were arrested after the shooting, including the three now represented by Zelman: Daniel Parker, of Lauderhill, Fla.; Joseph Garcia, of Floral Park, N.Y.; and Yves Delpeche, of Brooklyn, N.Y. All are 22.

O'Leary said Tuesday that all three were charged with disorderly conduct and obstruction. Parker and Delpeche also were charged with resisting

arrest. He said Delpeche had to be subdued with a stun gun. All were interfering with getting medical aid to the injured, he said.

The fourth teammate, Joseph Romanick of Slidell, La., was accused of breaking a window in the shopping center.

Zelman said none of the charges against her clients are true.

"Mr. Henry had been shot and left in the street handcuffed without anyone giving him medical aid. Under the law, as bystanders, these young men have the right to take it on themselves to perform first aid on their friend."

Mount Pleasant police Chief Louis Alagno, who is investigating the shooting with state police, did not return a call seeking comment. Alagno said Monday that Henry was handcuffed until officers realized he was gravely wounded, then was uncuffed and treated.

The officers who fired at the car have been identified as Pleasantville Officer Aaron Hess and Mount Pleasant Officer Ronald Beckley.

Zelman said the Westchester County district attorney should not allow police departments to investigate shootings "and other mischief" involving their own officers. She said she will ask the U.S. Department of Justice to investigate.

The district attorney's office and the U.S. attorney's office declined to comment.

Zelman said Parker told police he could perform CPR but one officer threatened him with a gun and then four or five rushed him, threw him to the ground and punched him.

"He told me he was looking at his friend, looking at him in the eyes as he was dying, and he can't come to grips with the police not allowing him to do CPR and first aid to save his friend's life," the attorney said.

Zelman said Delpeche told her he saw Henry on the ground with his legs twitching and yelled at officers, "Why did you shoot him? What did he do to deserve this?" She said he claims two officers pointed stun guns at his head — while he had his hands in the air — and he said, "There are a lot of people watching you. Are you going to Taser me?" One officer then shot him twice in the stomach with the stun gun, she said.

Garcia was also shot with a stun gun when he tried to help Delpeche, Zelman said. O'Leary said Wednesday that only Delpeche was stunned.

Zelman said she also represents Desmond Hines,



FILE- This file handout photo from Pace University shows Danroy Henry, 20, a student and football player at Pace University's Pleasantville campus who was shot and killed by local police .

(AP Photo)

a friend of Henry's who was in the back seat of Henry's car when Henry was shot. She would not discuss anything he said about what led to the shooting. But she said that after the shooting, officers pulled him out, threw him on the ground, cuffed him and put a gun to his head. She said Hines suffered a concussion but was not treated until he went to the hospital days later.

The attorney said she is also representing another football player, Ali Mourtada, "to protect his rights as a witness."

Zelman would not name a sixth client, whom she described as a woman who "collapsed hysterically" when an officer pointed a gun at her head.

The lawyer said all her clients except the woman are black, and said "there is a racial aspect" because the officers involved in the shooting are white. But she said she did not know of any specific racial slurs or other bias expressed or demonstrated on Sunday. □

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Nevada Senate race turns uglier with Hispanic ad



LAS VEGAS – A Republican campaign urging Latinos not to vote has been yanked from the airwaves amid an outcry from Democrats that it was a dirty trick against Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid in his hotly contested race against Republican Sharron Angle.

Reid sought to link the ad to Angle Tuesday as it drew a harsh rebuke from President Barack Obama, Hispanic leaders and candidates from

both parties in Nevada. Angle's opponents also pounced on the tea party favorite for her comments to Hispanic high school students that "some of you look a little more Asian to me."

"Listen to her latest, running ads on Hispanic television telling people not to vote," Reid said. "She is trying to keep people from voting."

Reid has fiercely courted the Hispanic vote in the contest against Angle, who supports

strict immigration policies. With the race in a dead heat, a dip in turnout among Hispanics would likely land Angle in the U.S. Senate.

The Republican group Latinos for Reform had planned to eventually run the commercials in Nevada, Florida, California, Texas and Colorado through the Nov. 2 election.

"Don't vote this November. This is the only way to send them a clear message," the ad's narrator announces in Spanish. "You can no longer take us for granted."

Univision told The Associated Press on Tuesday that the spot was pulled from one of its Spanish-language radio stations in Las Vegas shortly after the commercial hit the air.

Univision said it will also not run a companion ad on its Spanish-language TV

broadcasting network and will continue to encourage Hispanics to vote.

Telemundo, the nation's other major Spanish-language network, also said it would not broadcast the TV spots if approached.

Obama slammed the campaign during a round-table with reporters from Spanish-language outlets.

"I think it is terrible," he said. "It is a cynical political ploy to try to drive Latino votes to benefit a Republican candidate in Nevada who would never vote for immigration reform."

Robert de Posada, the founder of Latinos for Reform, said he is trying to determine whether he can legally challenge Univision, which approved the commercials Friday.

"It is a very sad moment where you cannot have discourse in the Spanish market," he said. "Obviously, my First

Amendment rights have been violated."

De Posada said Democrats were elected on empty promises of immigration reform in 2008. He also attacked Republican efforts to criminalize illegal immigrants or deny children of illegal immigrant's citizenship rights, policies supported by Angle, whom he called "irresponsible."

"I would rather not vote for anyone than be forced to vote for the lesser of two evils," he said.

De Posada is the former director of Hispanic affairs for the Republican National Committee. He also worked on Social Security reform under former President George W. Bush, who supported an immigration overhaul that would have allowed illegal immigrants to apply for legal status. □

NY gov candidate's star rises

NEW YORK – His profile is suddenly higher than the rent. An unknown candidate named Jimmy McMillan was the breakout star in New York's gubernatorial debate this week with his black gloves, mutton chops and mantra familiar to many New York apartment dwellers: "The rent is Too Damn High."

Clips from the debate have made McMillan a national cable news sensation, while a YouTube video has gotten more than a million hits in just two days.

Turns out McMillan isn't exactly a perfect messenger for his cause.

A perennial fringe candidate

who has run for governor, Senate and New York City mayor, McMillan has blamed the city's high rents in part on Jewish landlords. He also has given conflicting stories on how much he pays for his own apartment in Brooklyn, where he's lived for 20 years.

Records show he's also a registered Democrat, not a member of the Rent is Too Damn High party, which will be rendered as the Rent is 2 Damn High party on the Nov. 2 ballot.

McMillan's candidacy and message have struck a chord with voters across the country and in New York, where polls show Democratic Attorney

General Andrew Cuomo with a large lead over Republican millionaire real estate developer Carl Paladino in the race to replace David Paterson as governor.

In an interview Wednesday, McMillan said he's thrilled to finally get attention.

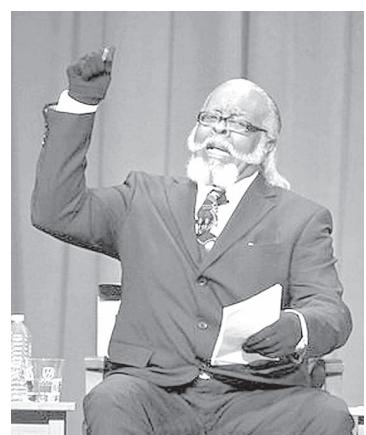
"It's about time," McMillan said. "I've been pushing for this for two decades. I'm glad someone is listening. Poor children will now have someone to represent them." McMillan spoke on his way out of the studio of "The Wendy Williams Show," where he'd taped a guest spot. He also appeared on Don Imus' nationally syndicated

radio show and said he hoped to be a guest on "Saturday Night Live."

"Everyone is jumping on me, so many people want me on their shows. This is not my kind of lifestyle," McMillan said, adding that he hoped television crews would do stories on his neighborhood instead.

"I want them to come to my community, to see the people who want me to fight for them," McMillan said. "It's not about Jimmy McMillan. I'm just a catalyst for the Rent Is Too Damn High movement, which is catching on across the whole country."

In Monday's debate, Cuomo



and Paladino were joined by the five minor party candidates who qualified for the statewide ballot, including McMillan. He stayed on message relentlessly, while occasionally lobbing funny one liners on other topics.

"If you want to marry a shoe, I'll marry you," McMillan said when asked if he supported gay marriage. □

Obama's 4-day campaign swing is his longest yet

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE,
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Two years ago, presidential candidate Barack Obama drew 60,000 people to a riverfront park rally in Portland, Ore. Another 15,000 couldn't get in.

But political organizers don't expect huge crowds when now-President Obama returns to Portland on Wednesday for the first time since that campaign heyday. Instead, the goal is for a far more modest showing of 5,000 people at a rally for Democratic gubernatorial candidate John Kitzhaber at the convention center.

It's the mark of a presidency weighed down by a sluggish economy, high unemployment, a poor housing market, two wars and a public that largely disapproves of Obama's performance in office.

Obama seems undaunted by it, at least publicly, as he heads out on his longest campaign swing of the season — a four-day stretch that also will take him to Washington state, California, Nevada and

Minnesota.

He'll be raising money and rallying core Democratic constituencies, such as women, ahead of elections in less than two weeks that could shrink the party's majorities in Congress if tradition holds on Nov. 2.

Obama is scheduled to campaign separately with Sens. Patty Murray of Washington, Barbara Boxer of California and Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada — Senate allies who are in tight contests against their Republican challengers.

Obama already has campaigned with each senator, sometimes more than once. But he's making the 3,000-mile return trip to help keep them and a Democratic majority in the Senate. It's what he needs to help get his agenda through Congress in the final two years of his term. Vice President Joe Biden, first lady Michelle Obama and Biden's wife, Jill, are doing their part, too, in an all-hands-on-deck effort by a White House fully aware of

the stakes for Obama should any, or all, of these Democrats fail to return to the Senate in January.

Biden campaigned Tuesday in Washington state for Murray and in San Francisco for Boxer.

He was scheduled to be in Reno, Nev., on Wednesday for Reid. Mrs. Obama and Mrs. Biden plan joint appearances next week in California and Seattle for Boxer and Murray. "We always knew that this was going to be a challenging year," Obama senior adviser David Axelrod told reporters Tuesday. "So we're out there and we're scrapping and we're fighting and I think we're going to have some good success out there."

Besides Kitzhaber, who is campaigning to win back his old job, Obama plans to stump for gubernatorial candidates Jerry Brown of California on Friday and Mark Dayton of Minnesota on Saturday.

Governors can help turn out the vote in presidential election years. They also can help draw new congressional



President Barack Obama speaks in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Tuesday, Oct. 19, 2010, before signing the Executive Order on the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics.

(AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

districts, a once-a-decade process that gets under way next year following the 2010 census.

Obama has spent the week reaching out to core Democratic constituencies.

He held a telephone conference call with reporters for African American newspapers and invited Spanish-language journalists to the White House

for a round-table discussion.

He'll reach out to women Thursday in Seattle, discussing women and the economy with a female-only audience.

And next week, Obama will court younger voters and those who don't rely on traditional media for their news when he takes his campaign message to Comedy Central's "The Daily Show" with Jon Stewart. □

Schwarzenegger urges voters to protect climate law

you can to make everyone vote 'no' on this proposition."

The petroleum industry has spent millions to promote the measure, which would indefinitely suspend AB32, California's 2006 law mandating significant emissions reductions by 2020. Supporters say such a move is necessary to protect small businesses and save jobs in a state where unemployment is at 12.4 percent.

Critics say that argument masks greed and self-interest among oil industry executives. They contend AB32, which is scheduled to take effect in 2012, ultimately would create more jobs than it eliminates in the short term.

Schwarzenegger called for voters to send a clear message to Proposition 23's backers.

"It's very important that we push back, and it is important that we do it with a huge victory, a huge margin," he said Tuesday. "Then we can go to Washington and say,

'Let's go and set a national energy policy.'"

The governor's remarks kicked off a series of events organized by Proposition 23 opponents. Later in the day, a group of 68 venture capitalists and investors issued a joint statement against the measure, calling it "shortsighted and counterproductive" and a threat to the state's position as a clean-energy leader.

In the four years since AB32 was approved, \$9 billion has been invested in clean technology in California and more than a million Californians are employed in cleantech jobs, the statement said.

"This isn't about wearing hemp and adopting a totally new kind of lifestyle," said Alan Salzman, CEO and managing partner of the California-based VantagePoint Venture Partners. "Through this innovation, we are driving to make the energy, water and materials we use cheaper and better than today's

fossil fuel-based solutions."

The investors, who collectively manage more than \$415 billion in assets, warned that Proposition 23 could put that innovation in jeopardy.

"Proposition 23 is a classic example of short-term thinking that could destroy long-term opportunity and growth in California," said Chris Davis, director of investor programs at Ceres, a Boston-based investment network that focuses on environmental sustainability.

A spokesman for Valero Corp. of Texas, one of three oil companies that have contributed the bulk of the money to Proposition 23, said that if the measure fails, California's independent refiners will suffer and the state's reliance on cheap overseas oil will increase — the exact outcome Proposition 23 opponents say they want to prevent.

"That's why we're saying this is not the right time for AB32," said the spokesman, Bill Day. □



SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said Tuesday he doesn't just want to defeat the November ballot measure that would suspend the state's greenhouse gas emissions law — he wants voters to trounce it to prompt Washington to create a new national energy policy.

Speaking in San Francisco, Schwarzenegger characterized Proposition 23 as a battle between out-of-state oil interests and environmental progress.

"Now, there's some Texan oil companies, they don't like our environmental laws," the Republican governor told the audience at the Willie L. Brown Jr. Institute annual breakfast. "And so I want to ask all of you to do everything

Boehner a personable, partisan speaker-in-waiting



FILE - In this Jan. 5, 2009, file photo Senate Minority leader Mitch McConnell of Ky., left, listens to House Minority leader John Boehner of Ohio, during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington. Boehner, the sole remaining House member from a clique of upstart freshmen, is poised to claim victory: If Republicans win control of the House in November's midterm elections, Boehner is expected to become the chamber's suavely dressed, Camel-smoking, golf-loving, bronze-skinned speaker.

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais, File)

By NANCY BENAC,
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The new GOP congressmen first posed in cowboy outfits. That looked silly so they switched to shirt sleeves and ties. "The Gang of Seven," reads the caption on their old, bold poster. "We're changing Congress. Join the fight."

Nearly two decades later, 60-year-old John Boehner, the sole remaining House member from those upstart freshmen, is poised to claim victory: If Republicans win control in the Nov. 2 elections, he is expected to become the chamber's suavely dressed, Camel-smoking, golf-loving, bronze-tanned speaker.

Boehner, now the House

minority leader, was little known outside his home district until President Barack Obama began holding him out as the personification of backward and elitist Republican policies. In return, Boehner is drawing heavily on his blue-collar upbringing as he travels the country offering the GOP counterpoint to Obama's campaign pitch. In this duel of definitions, Boehner, one of 12 children of a working-class family in Ohio, tells of mopping the floors in his father's bar at age 10, of the skills required to deal with all the characters who walked in the door of Andy's Cafe, of toughing it out in night school while turning around a failing small

business.

"If there's one thing I hope you learn about me, it's that I'm a regular guy," Boehner tells one audience.

"I've got two brothers that are unemployed; I've got two brother-in-laws that are unemployed," Boehner tells a TV interviewer. "I understand what's going on out in America."

"I've had every rotten job there ever was, but I gotta tell you I was grateful to have every single one of them," Boehner says in a speech.

It's all meant to counter the "G-T-L" refrain of Boehner's critics, who try to keep the focus on just three things: Boehner's love of golf, his head-turning tan and his close ties to lobbyists. The three all feed into Democrats' characterizations of Boehner as a country club Republican who's looking out only for corporate bigwigs.

"It tells a story about where his priorities are," says Justin Coussoule, his longshot Democratic challenger in Ohio's 8th district, which runs along the Indiana border and takes in suburbs of Cincinnati and parts of Dayton.

Boehner, pronounced BAY-nur, took the first steps on his long climb up the leadership ladder not long after his election to the Democratic-controlled House in 1990. Angry and embarrassed by revelations that legislators had been routinely allowed

to overdraw their House bank accounts, Boehner and six other Republican freshmen commiserated in the back of the House chamber over what they saw as the GOP's get-along, go-along leadership and its limp response to the check-bouncing scandal.

Soon they were getting together for pizza and beer and plotting a minor revolt.

"We were ready to chew some red meat," recalls former Rep. and Sen. Rick Santorum, a member of the Gang of Seven. "John was more, 'OK, boys, let's take a step back, figure out a game plan. They'll chew you up and spit you out if you don't.'" The seven played it right, stoking public anger and using it as a cudgel to shut

down the House bank and press for broader changes. Even

then, Boehner was angling for a leadership position and honing the qualities that would take him there: a calm and approachable manner, an insistence on strategic planning, a refusal to give up. "He never gets too high when things are going well and he doesn't get too low when things are not going so well," says Rep. Steve LaTourette, a fellow Ohio Republican. (Boehner does cry, though. He's known to choke up over school kids and bank bailouts.) Former aide Terry Holt remembers a day when he and another aide had grabbed one another's lapels in a hallway shouting match, and Boehner walked by.

"He didn't even slow down," Holt says. "He just said, 'All right boys, come on, let's go to staff meeting.'"

Boehner's life is writ large with turning points when he found opportunity in misfortune — his own, and that of others.

When his partner at Nucite Sales, a marketing firm for plastics and other small manufacturers, died, Boehner took charge of the struggling enterprise and turned it into a moneymaker that eventually earned him millions.

When an Ohio congressman got caught in a sex scandal, then-state Rep. Boehner snatched away his seat in the U.S. House.

When Boehner finally got — and then lost — a GOP leadership position in the House, he didn't sulk. He hunkered down and proved himself an effective committee chairman.

"It was awful, but I was never going to let the bastards see me sweat," Boehner later said of being ousted from his leadership post after the GOP election losses in 1998. "I just smiled and went to work."

Eight years later, when Majority Leader Tom DeLay was indicted on charges of political money laundering, Boehner staged a comeback and then some, outmaneuvering two other challengers to replace him.

"I feel like the dog who

caught the car," said Boehner, flashing a grin.

Now, Boehner is hoping that an unfortunate election year for Obama and the Democrats will be his ticket to the speaker's chair in Congress. As he makes the case for the Republican agenda of cutting taxes, repealing Obama's health care overhaul and shrinking government, Boehner also is making the case for himself — without providing much detail about his agenda should he become speaker.

His mission is twofold: demonstrate to fellow Republicans that he's got the goods to lead as speaker — and stave off a challenge to his leadership if GOP election gains don't live up to sky-high expectations.

He often recites a refrain that is reminiscent of the best-selling book "All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten."

Says Boehner: "All the skills I learned growing up are the skills I need to do my job."

He was reared in a two-bedroom Sears catalog house in suburban Cincinnati with 11 brothers and sisters, and parents who slept on a pullout couch until they built an addition that added more bedrooms. As the second-oldest child, Boehner was the authoritarian who made sure the younger ones did their homework and cleaned their rooms. He's still a neatnik.

With just one bathroom in the house, "you had to work within the schedule Mom put out so that you didn't get left behind," recalls Boehner's big brother Bob. "Everybody had to work together." And that,

says Bob Boehner, laid the foundation for his brother's success in politics and working with all sorts.

The Boehners, like many big Catholic families, were what Bob Boehner calls conservative "Kennedy Democrats," but not politically active.

Earl and Mary Anne Boehner sent their kids to Catholic schools and put them to work helping out at the family's bar on nights and weekends. □

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SAUDI PRINCE

Continued from Front Page

The killer was a Saudi prince who tried in vain to hide his homosexuality from the court and had been filmed on a closed-circuit camera mercilessly beating the victim — his paid manservant — in the hotel elevator. The frenzied killing, and the erotic nude photos of the victim found on the prince's mobile phone, have embarrassed the Saudi royal family, which has refused to comment on the matter. The case is not receiving press attention inside Saudi Arabia. Justice David Bean told the killer, Prince Saud Abdulaziz bin Nasser Al Saud, that no man, even a royal, was above the law. He said it would be wrong for him to allow the prince's royal status to influence the severity of the sentence.

The judge said Saud had cruelly taken advantage of Abdulaziz before killing him in a rage.

"You killed Abdulaziz in the course of a sustained and ferocious assault," Bean said. "You were in a position of domination over him, as demonstrated both by the lift (elevator) incident and by the sexually explicit photographs you took of him, at some point prior to Feb. 15, which were found on your mobile phone.

Abdulaziz was a vulnerable victim, entirely subjugated to your will. You were in a position of authority and trust over him which you exploited ruthlessly."

The sensational case featured CCTV images of the shaven-headed prince throwing punches at his aide in a hotel elevator — the basis of the prosecution claim that the suave playboy prince battered his servant in a rage following years of abuse.

The attack left the aide's ear swollen to three times the normal size and "beyond medical treatment."

Bean said the most chilling aspect of the case was Abdulaziz's acceptance of the vicious beating.

"He was so completely subservient to you that after being treated as a human punchbag he followed you meekly out of the lift," the judge said, adding that Saud did not try to help Abdulaziz after inflicting fatal injuries and instead tried to concoct a cover story.

"If you had any remorse you would have sought medical help immediately. But you were only concerned for yourself," Bean said.

The killing took place in their shared room at the Landmark Hotel in London on Feb. 15. Prosecutor Jonathan Laidlaw described an extravagant

lifestyle with a dashing prince who lived the luxury life — dining in fine restaurants and receiving erotic massages from a masseur who compared him to Hollywood actor Omar Sharif. Laidlaw described the prince as sadistic and abusive. "Beneath the surface this was a deeply abusive relationship which the defendant exploited for sadistic reasons, for his own personal gratification," he said.

Jenny Hopkins, head of the Homicide Unit for the Crown Prosecution Service in London, said after the sentencing that Saud had tried to portray the victim as his equal and his friend but that witnesses testified that Abdulaziz was a servant engaged in a sexual relationship with the prince. Saud did not flinch as the judge described the injuries he had inflicted on the "subservient" Abdulaziz.

His father, Prince Abdulaziz, looked on gravely from the public gallery.

Saud originally told police that he and Abdulaziz had been drinking champagne into the early hours of the morning, and that when he awoke at 3 p.m. he could not rouse Abdulaziz.

Prosecutors said Abdulaziz was killed between 1:40 a.m. and 2:40 a.m. and that the prince spent the next 12 hours on the phone trying to figure



In this CCTV handout image issued by the Metropolitan Police, Saudi Arabian Prince Saud, in white jacket, attacks his servant, Bandar Abdulaziz, in a lift. A Saudi prince has been convicted in Britain of murdering a servant. A jury in London's Old Bailey criminal court, on Tuesday Oct. 19, 2010, found Prince Saud Abdulaziz bin Nasser al Saud guilty of murdering Bandar Abdullah Abdulaziz in a frenzied attack in a hotel. The 34-year-old prince faces a possible life sentence. The jury deliberated just 95 minutes before returning its verdict.

Associated Press

out what options he had. The jury had deliberated just 95 minutes before returning its verdict. The prince was convicted of both murder, which took place in the hotel room, and a second count of inflicting grievous bodily harm stemming from the earlier attack in the elevator. Jurors rejected a claim by his defense lawyer, John Kelsey-Fry, that the prince was guilty only of manslaughter. The prince's grandfather is the half brother of the current Saudi king.

Peter Tatchell, a gay rights activist who works with Make Justice Work, a penal reform group, said he was pleased the prince was not allowed to evade justice by claiming diplomatic immunity.

He said that if Saud is ever released from prison he would likely seek asylum in Britain rather than return to Saudi Arabia, where homosexuals receive harsh treatment.

"He's also likely to be at risk of severe retribution for bringing disgrace to the Saudi royal family," Tatchell said. □

U.N. diplomats: China tries to block Sudan report

EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press Writer

UNITED NATIONS (AP)

— China is trying to block a U.N. report alleging that Chinese ammunition was sent to Darfur in violation of a U.N. arms embargo, U.N. diplomats said Wednesday. The Security Council committee monitoring sanctions against Sudan was meeting Wednesday afternoon and two diplomats familiar with the closed-door deliberations said China was arguing that the report by the committee's panel of experts should not be sent to the council.

One diplomat said China claimed the panel was unprofessional and challenged its methodology. According to the diplomats, the draft report said Chinese shell casings were found after attacks against the joint U.N.-African Union

peacekeeping force in Darfur with markings showing the ammunition was manufactured after 2009, the diplomats said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the report has not been published.

The Security Council initially imposed an arms embargo on rebels and the government-allied janjaweed militias in Darfur. In March 2005, it extended the embargo to include Sudan's government.

The Darfur conflict began in February 2003 when ethnic African rebels took up arms against the Arab-dominated Sudanese government in Khartoum, claiming discrimination and neglect. Khartoum is accused of retaliating by arming local nomadic Arab tribes and unleashing the janjaweed on civilian populations — a charge the government

denies.

U.N. officials say at least 300,000 people have lost their lives from violence, disease and displacement, and 2.7 million have been driven from their homes.

The U.N. panel of experts reported last November that the Sudanese government and rebel groups in Darfur were refusing to abandon the military option and increasingly violating the arms embargo.

China has been a key force in developing Sudan's vital oil sector and buying the country's crude oil and has close political ties to the government. Its alleged involvement in supplying ammunition, in violation of U.N. sanctions, was first reported by Foreign Policy magazine's Turtle Bay blog. According to the two U.N. diplomats, the latest report by the panel of experts



Mother of six, Halima Ibrahim, 33, at right, and her children stop to talk to a reporter while the U.N. Security Council workers in background visit the Abu Shouk refugee camp on the outskirts of El Fasher, North Darfur, Sudan, on Friday, Oct. 8, 2010. The U.N. Security Council diplomats arrive for a fact finding visit with local camp leaders to talk about aid, security, and living conditions in the refugee camp. The U.N. Security Council team visiting Darfur expressed deep concerns Friday over the increase in violence in the western Sudanese region.

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was first presented to the sanctions committee on Oct. 4.

The panel alleged that more than a dozen types of Chinese

ammunition were used by Sudanese government forces in combat with rebels in Darfur over the past two years, the diplomats said. □



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Student, 20, heads police in Mexico drug corridor

OLIVIA TORRES

Associated Press Writer

PRAXEDIS G. GUERRERO, Mexico (AP)

— There's a new police chief in this violent borderland where drug gangs have killed public officials and terrified many citizens into fleeing: a 20-year-old woman who hasn't yet finished her criminology degree. Marisol Valles Garcia was sworn in Wednesday to bring law and order to the township of about 8,500 that was a string of quiet farming communities until two rival gangs — the Juarez and Sinaloa drug cartels — began battling for control of its single highway.

The tiny but energetic Valles Garcia says she wants her 12 officers to practice a special brand of community policing.

"My people are out there going door to door, looking for criminals, and (in homes) where there are none, trying to teach values to the families," she said before she was presented to the public on Wednesday.

Whether her decision is courageous or foolhardy, the appointment shows how desperate the situation has become in the Juarez Valley, a lucrative trafficking corridor along the Texas border.

Local residents say the drug gangs take over at night, riding through the towns in convoys of SUVs and pickups, assault rifles and even .50 caliber sniper rifles at the ready.

The assistant mayor of nearby El Porvenir and the mayor of Distrito Bravos were killed recently even after they took refuge in nearby Ciudad Juarez.

Drug cartels in many drug-plagued parts of Mexico have killed or threatened police chiefs and their departments, buying off some officers and prompting some others to quit en masse.

While the bullet holes that pockmarked police headquarters in Praxedis have been painted over, police buildings in other towns in the valley remain empty, with broken windows and few signs of life.

In past months, soldiers and then federal police largely took over patrols, but they

stick mainly to the main road, afraid to venture down unfamiliar dirt roads that branch off into the valley and are well-traveled by drug traffickers.

"Let's hope it is not a reckless act on her part," said Miguel Sarre, a professor who specializes in Mexican law enforcement at the Autonomous Technological Institute of Mexico. He said that "a municipal police force cannot protect itself against such powerful forces."

Mexico's federal government has struggled to cope with the drug cartel threat to the underpaid, untrained and often corrupt local police that work for Mexico's roughly 2,022 municipal police forces.

President Felipe Calderon has recognized the problem faced by local police forces, whose officers earn average monthly salaries of only 4,000 pesos (about \$300). Most of them have completed less than 10 years of schooling and are either at basic education levels or illiterate, according to the report.

In some cities and towns, entire municipal forces have been fired or arrested for allegedly cooperating with drug gangs, and officials say their low wages and poor weaponry — most use shotguns and pistols, while drug gangs have assault rifles — make them ineffectual or worse.

Calderon has proposed a "unified command" structure in which Mexico's 32 state governments would have state police take on the main responsibility, backed up by federal officers and soldiers where needed.

Observers like Sarre generally support that idea, given the vulnerability and lack of trustworthiness of local forces. "As long as there is no broad solution, municipal police forces will have to be substituted by state and federal forces," he said.

Two bodyguards have been assigned to protect Valles Garcia. While the cartels have been more than able to penetrate much tighter security details — killing mayors and police chiefs throughout northern Mexico — she says she isn't afraid. □



Twenty-year-old Marisol Valles Garcia, center, listens to a question during a news conference after her swearing-in ceremony as the new police chief in the border town of Praxedis G. Guerrero as the town's secretary Andres Morales, left, and Mayor Jose Luis Guerrero de la Pena look on, near the northern border city of Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, Wednesday Oct. 20, 2010.

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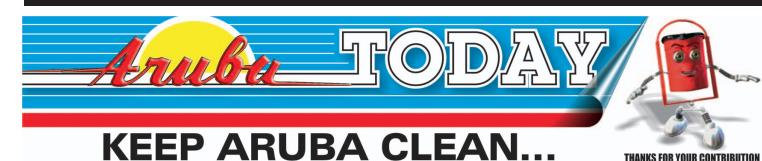
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Rioters rampage, protesters block French airports

GREG KELLER

Associated Press Writer

PARIS (AP) — Workers opposed to a higher retirement age blocked roads to airports around France on Wednesday, leaving passengers in Paris dragging suitcases on foot along an emergency breakdown lane.

Outside the capital, hooded youths smashed store windows amid clouds of tear gas.

Riot police in black body armor forced striking workers away from blocked fuel depots in western France, restoring gasoline to areas where pumps were dry after weeks of protests over the government proposal raising the age from 60 to 62.

Riot officers in the Paris suburb of Nanterre and the southeastern city of Lyon sprayed tear gas but appeared unable to stop the violence.

Finance Minister Christine Lagarde said both the strikes and the violence were taking an economic toll.

"I'm calling on people to be responsible, in particular those who are having a roaring time blocking access and breaking things," she said in an interview with TF1 television. "It's serious for our country."

After months of largely peaceful disruptions, some protests erupted into scattered violence this week over the government's push to raise the retirement age from 60 to 62. President Nicolas Sarkozy vowed that his conservative party would pass the reform in a Senate vote expected Thursday.

Many workers feel the change would be a first step in eroding France's social benefits — which include long vacations, contracts that make it hard for employers to lay off workers



Firefighters put out a fire of a burning truck after clashes between the police and youth, in Lyon, central France, Wednesday Oct. 20, 2010. French authorities forced strike-shuttered fuel depots to reopen to ensure gasoline supplies, and the interior minister threatened Wednesday to send in paramilitary police to stop rioting on the fringes of protests against raising the retirement age to 62. Months of largely peaceful demonstrations against the pension reform have taken a violent turn in recent days.

and a state-subsidized health care system — in favor of "American-style capitalism." Sarkozy ordered all fuel depots forcibly reopened and vowed Wednesday that he would "carry the retirement reform through to the end." And despite France's tolerance for a long tradition of strikes and protest, official patience appeared to be waning after weeks of actions that have snarled traffic, canceled flights and dwindling gasoline supplies and, now, rising urban violence.

Protesters waving red union flags and reflective vests temporarily blocked the main road leading to one of two terminals at Orly Airport on Wednesday. The ADP airport authority warned on its website of "serious difficulties expected in access to airports and air traffic."

The protests tangled traffic to the airport and some passengers walked hundreds of meters (yards) along an emergency lane to get there, dragging suitcases behind them. In one terminal, screens showed that 10 of 52 flights Wednesday afternoon were canceled.

"It's Baghdad here," said Lionel Philippe, who arrived at Orly after much difficulty because of protesters blocking access to the airport — only to find his flight to Biarritz canceled.

He said he wasn't interested in the pension reform debate, he just wants to get home.

"I'm 28, by the time I retire everything will have changed anyway," he said.

At Charles de Gaulle airport north of Paris, the nation's biggest, protesters sang the French national anthem before

Associated Press pushing through a police barricade.

"It is like we are on another planet," said Canadian traveler Olivier Lejour, waiting to take off from Charles de Gaulle. While he said it was "fun" to watch, he said the protests disrupted his efforts to work in Paris.

The CGT Transport union says protests also shut down the Clermont-Ferrand airport in the south and disrupted airports in Nice and Nantes.

With nearly a third of France's gas stations dry, authorities stepped in overnight to force open three fuel depots blocked by striking workers for days, Interior Minister Brice Hortefeux said.

At one site in the western town of Donges, police formed a corridor along the road leading to the depot to allow trucks to pass in and out. Video footage

showed officers peacefully herding striking workers away from one depot.

Hortefeux warned that the blockades threatened emergency services and could have grave consequences for the entire French economy and public health and safety.

Hortefeux warned rioters that "the right to protest is not the right to break things, the right to set things on fire, the right to assault, the right to pillage." "We will use all means necessary to get these delinquents," including the GIGN paramilitary police, he said.

The police deployed so far have been CRS riot police, helmeted and wielding shields, sometimes firing tear gas or rubber bullets.

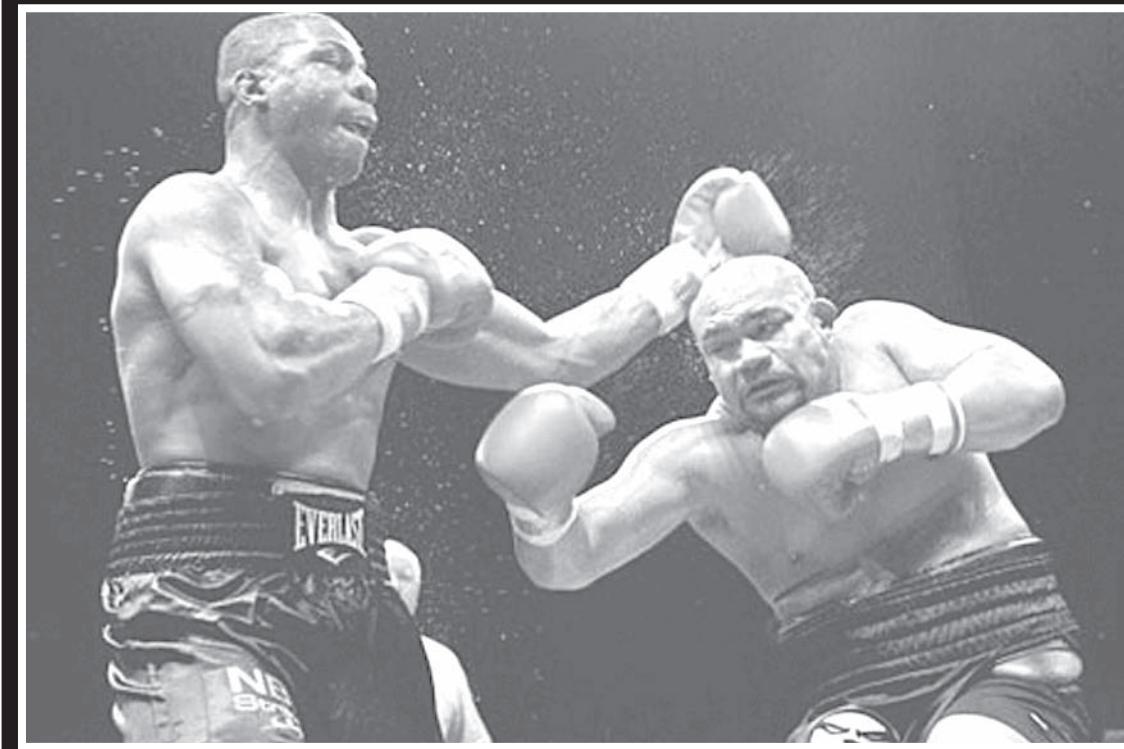
There are still more than 3,000 gas stations empty of fuel, or about a quarter of those nationwide, the environment minister said Wednesday.

Over the past week, 1,423 people have been detained for protest-related violence and 62 police officers injured, he said. He said he ordered police to look at video surveillance to find more perpetrators, suggesting more arrests could be ahead.

In Nanterre on Wednesday morning, about 100 students blocked the school entrance and part of highway in front of the school, while a "tranquility team" of about 30 adults in special red jackets sought to keep things calm.

Then about 100 other youths arrived and started darting through the town streets, smashing store windows and throwing stones. Some store owners lowered metal blinds to avoid looting. Nine police vans were parked in the surrounding area. □

LOCAL Aruba TODAY



Tua/Barrett twinbill in Aruba

ORANJESTAD - Looks like former world heavyweight title challengers David Tua (51-3-2, 43 KOs) and Monte Barrett (34-9-1, 20 KOs) will headline in separate bouts on December 4th in Aruba. No opponents have been named for either fighter. The idea should each win would be a rematch of their draw from this past July in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Tua was knocked down for the first time in his career by Barrett in the 12th and final round of that fight.□

Become a volunteer for one morning!

AHATA's Beach and Coastal Cleanup on 13 November



ORANJESTAD - For just one morning in the year you can make a big difference for your island. Participate and become a volunteer for the only official National Beach and Coastal Cleanup. This takes place on Saturday 13 November, from 8 am until 11:30 am. This will be the 9th year that it is organized by the Ahata environmental



committee. Anyone that wants to help keep Aruba clean is welcome to participate. Also, Ahata is looking for volunteers with pickups and trailers in order to transport the waste. How to inscribe? E-mail: vanessa@ahata.co, Telephone: 582-2607 – Vanessa Rasmussen at Ahata. Also, there's inscription forms available at Balashi Brewery and the Carry-out Oranjestad (LG Smith Blvd) and at Ahata's offices. With the help of Tropical Bottling Co and Balashi National Brewery, the official sponsors of the event, Ahata wants to get more volunteers this year. The last day to inscribe is Monday 25 October. If you want to form a group with your colleagues, friends, family, that is also possible and Ahata will do its best to assign your group at one specific beach or coastal area. The coast/cove we will be cleaning are Havana Beach through Wilhelmina Park, Parke Arikok, California Dunes, Wariruri, Baby Beach/Nanki Country Club, Bachelors Beach, Boca Grandi, Zeewijk Beach, Mangel Halto, Santo Largo, between Bushiri Beach and Tamarijn Beach, Arashi, Anaboei, Bird Sanctuary. You will also receive latex gloves and AWA, Coca-Cola or Powerade but it's good to go prepared yourself as well. Keep reading your papers in the next couple of days in order to receive more information about the Coastal Cleanup. Become a volunteer for a morning and keep Aruba clean!□

For Marriott's Vacation Club Sales & Marketing Division

Iris Molina named Financial Director, Moises Uruena is new Sales Manager



ORANJESTAD – Climbing up the career ladder is an accomplishment that is well practiced in Marriott's Vacation Club (MVC) Sales & Marketing Division. Iris Molina, an eleven year veteran with MVC, was recently named Director of Finance. Molina took her talent for numbers and was able to grow her skills at Marriott, starting with an entry level position of accounting coordinator and enjoying promotions to staff accountant, accounting manager and assistant comptroller, before realizing greater responsibility and career satisfaction as Financial Director.

"I am focused on my new role, and in providing additional

support as a financial advisor, so that I can continue to grow together with MVC," comments Molina. "I work for a great company, one that recognizes hard work and talent, and helps its associates realize career goals."

Along with gaining promotions, Molina has often been the recipient of various awards during her tenure with MVCI, including the distinction of Manager of the Year for 2009, and the regional title of Manager of the Year in 2005. Among her many obvious skills related to accounting, she also has been recognized over the years for her teamwork and customer relations abilities.

"Iris is representative of many



of our associates, whose response to encouragement and the right training yields a high level of self-development," remarks MVC Director of Finance Trainer for the East Region. Her words are echoed by Regional DOF Camilla Chisholm, who adds, "We were impressed with Iris' enthusiasm as well as her abilities. She has and will continue to play an important role in contributing to company goals while also continuously sowing the seeds to her own success."

Moises Uruena

Out in the Sales Gallery, MVC's newest Sales Manager Moises Uruena honed his skills and earned an excellent reputation as a sales associate and a top earner with a consistently high volume of vacation ownership sales over his ten year history with Marriott's Aruba Surf Club. Although he was first hesitant to accept a position of manager as he thought it would alter his daily contact with guests, he has discovered even greater rewards in the mix of both coaching colleagues as well as with customer service.

He, too, has been well recognized over the years with various awards from MVCI, including the prestigious Award of Excellence in 2007. However, he says he finds his greatest satisfaction in having helped transform Aruba's visitors into happy, repeat guests as Marriott Vacation Club owners.

"I have brought 4,700 new owners to Marriott's Aruba Surf Club, many of whom have become close friends and visit me each time they come back to Aruba," he remarks. "It is a great feeling to know I have helped visitors find their perfect second home here in Aruba."

The satisfaction of Aruba's guests, who have found an additional facet to love about the island in becoming vacation owners, often begins with an introduction provided by one of MVCI's talented, on-island Sales & Marketing associates. Aruba's team remains one of the highest rated departments within the entire Marriott Vacation Club International (MVCI) network. More information about MVCI is obtainable by calling Tel: 586-2641 or visiting the website: www.vacationclub.com or www.marriotsarubasurfclub.com. □

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Meredith & David host reception at Casa Tua Barcelona



ORANJESTAD - Meredith Denneler and David Hughes were married on our beautiful island Aruba. A romantic beach ceremony was held on the Renaissance Island with the couples' family and closest friends.

After this ceremony the 'fresh' Hughes couple took their party to Casa Tua Barcelona downtown where they had their perfect wedding dinner



while a live DJ played all their favorite songs! 'The setting is great, the food is super and the service is impeccable' said one of the bridesmaids about Casa Tua! There were beautiful words with the speeches,

lots of dancing, tears of joy and tears of laughing....all ingredients were present to celebrate this great wedding party of an extraordinary couple. Congratulations Merri and Dave!! □



Loyal friends honored at the Marriott Surf Club Resort



PALM BEACH - Recently at the Marriott Surf Club Resort vacationers were presented with honorary titles created by the Ministry of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guest visiting Aruba for ten and 20 consecutive years. Special friends of Aruba, enjoying ten or more annual vacations here, are given the Distinguished Guest certificate and those with twenty consecutive years are awarded the Ambassador of Goodwill title. The recent honoring were effected by the Aruba Tourism Authority Associate Ricardo Croes at the Marriott Surf Club Resort. they call their home away from home. The following guests were honored as Ambassadors of Goodwill for the Island of Aruba: Robert & Candi Selig after visiting Aruba for 25 years.

On picture ATA Rep. Ricardo Croes together with honorees and also staff from the Marriott Surf Club Resort. □

Spectacular seafood special at Driftwood

From the pier to your plate at authentic Aruban seafood restaurant

ORANJESTAD - It's happening downtown. Established Driftwood Restaurant launches a series of spectacular and delicious seafood specials, available now.

Driftwood is specialized in fresh seafood from the Caribbean Sea and has become the favorite spot for Aruban-style seafood dishes. Fresh fish is caught daily by the owner himself and



perfectly and authentically prepared by their talented local Chef.

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The authentic local seafood restaurant.

The menu includes a large variety of typically Aruban delicacies including a three star fish soup and a mouth-watering filet of fish served with a mild Aruban Creole sauce... a seafood lover's dream come true.

Opening hours: every day, but Tuesdays from 5pm till 10:30pm.



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SPORTS

Aruba TODAY



On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com Website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: 582-7800 Thursday, October 21, 2010

NFL Players confused by crackdown on hard hits

By BARRY WILNER

AP Pro Football Writer

NEW YORK — Ray Lewis is worried about what's happening to his sport.

The Baltimore linebacker who epitomizes hard hits in the NFL fears that the league is stripping away the inherent violence and "the game will be diluted very quickly."

"My opinion is play the game like that game is supposed to be played, and whatever happens happens," Lewis said Wednesday about the NFL's decision to crack down on dangerous and flagrant hits.

The NFL imposed huge fines on three players — Pittsburgh's James Harrison, Atlanta's Dunta Robinson and New England's Brandon Meriweather — for illegal hits last weekend, although none of those plays drew penalties on the field. It warned that, starting with this week's games, violent conduct will be cause for suspension.

Arizona Cardinals linebacker Joey Porter was clearly perplexed by the decision.

"There's no more hitting hard. That's what our game is about. It's a gladiator sport," Porter said. "I mean, the whole excitement of people getting hit hard, big plays happening, stuff like that."

"Just watch — the game is going to change."

Violence has always been a part of the NFL, bringing soaring TV ratings and strong attendance — along with the allure that accompanied tackles by Chuck Bednarik, Fred "The Hammer" Williamson, and Jack "The Assassin" Tatum.

The question is how much to allow.

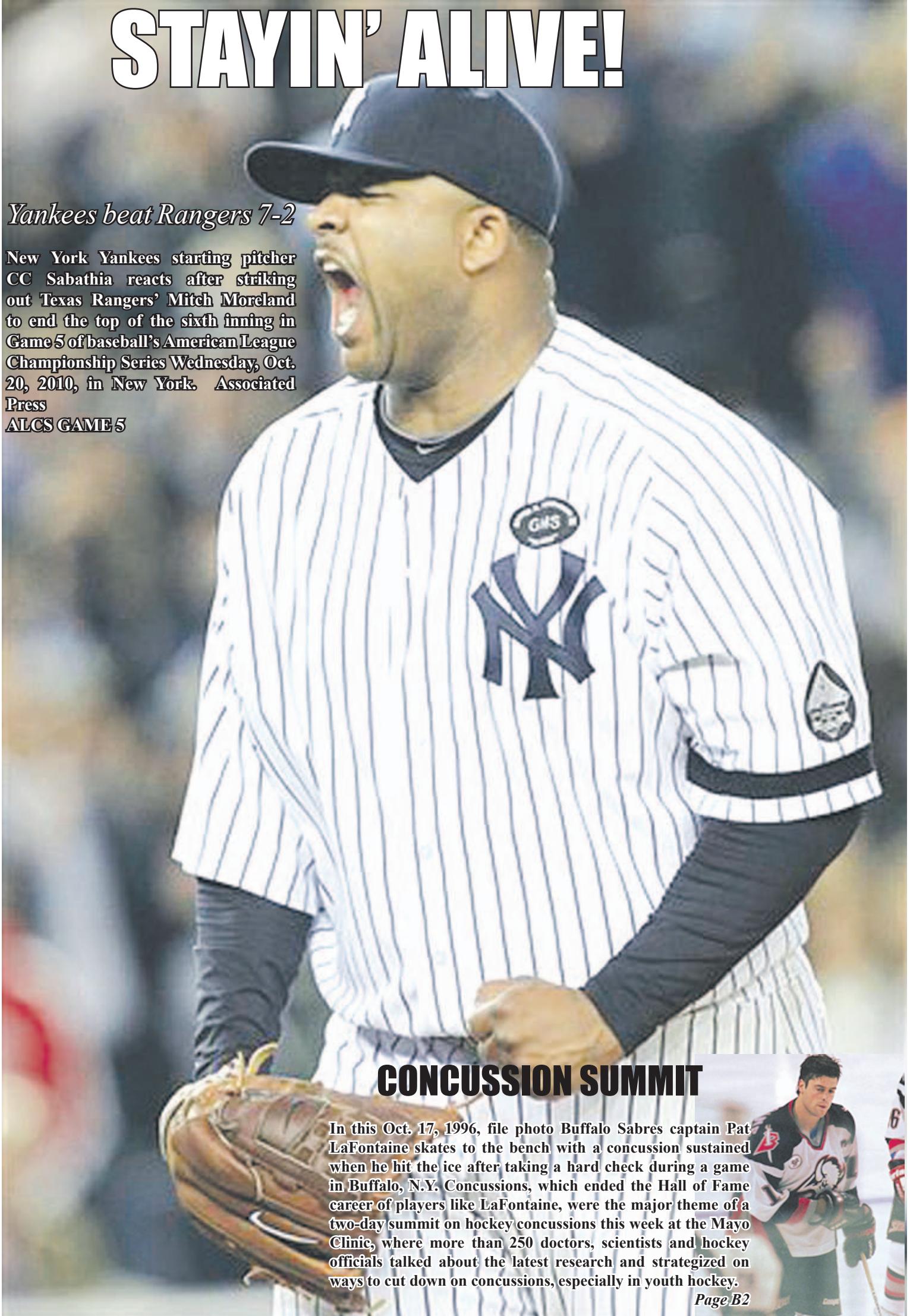
Continued on Page B3

STAYIN' ALIVE!

Yankees beat Rangers 7-2

New York Yankees starting pitcher CC Sabathia reacts after striking out Texas Rangers' Mitch Moreland to end the top of the sixth inning in Game 5 of baseball's American League Championship Series Wednesday, Oct. 20, 2010, in New York. Associated Press

ALCS GAME 5



CONCUSSION SUMMIT

In this Oct. 17, 1996, file photo Buffalo Sabres captain Pat LaFontaine skates to the bench with a concussion sustained when he hit the ice after taking a hard check during a game in Buffalo, N.Y. Concussions, which ended the Hall of Fame career of players like LaFontaine, were the major theme of a two-day summit on hockey concussions this week at the Mayo Clinic, where more than 250 doctors, scientists and hockey officials talked about the latest research and strategized on ways to cut down on concussions, especially in youth hockey.

Page B2

Mayo Clinic summit seeks to cut hockey concussions

By STEVE KARNOWSKI

Associated Press Writer

ROCHESTER, Minn. —

When in doubt, sit them out.

That mantra was repeated over and over this week during a two-day summit on hockey concussions at the Mayo Clinic, where more than 250 doctors, experts and hockey officials discussed ways to cut down on concussions, especially in youth hockey.

The conclusions? Change won't come easy and any steps will require changes in hockey culture, from pros all the way down to peewees. And better equipment may help a bit but it won't be enough. Concussions have become one of the top health issues in sports over the past

several years, driven in part by high-profile injuries in the NFL as well as the NHL.

As in football, hockey prizes toughness, so players are sometimes reluctant to acknowledge they're hurt. Some coaches expect injured players to get up and get back in the game. So do many parents. And referees who call penalties for violent play get vilified.

The proposed solutions rang true with several prep and youth hockey coaches in hockey-crazy Minnesota, but they also cautioned in interviews Tuesday against trying to eliminate contact from the sport.

Still, pro sports leagues set the tone for young athletes, and speakers at the summit



In this Oct. 11, 2010, file photo Buffalo Sabres' Jason Pominville is carted off the ice after a hit which resulted in a gash above his eye and a concussion during an NHL hockey game against the Chicago Blackhawks in Buffalo, N.Y.

Associated Press

noted with approval the NFL's decision to impose big fines on three players for dangerous head hits last weekend.

Kerry Fraser, who retired at the end of last season after refereeing an NHL-record 2,165 games over 30 years, said the NHL's new ban on blindside hits to the head is a good start. He said its success will depend on whether the league backs up referees who call the penalties.

Fraser said he issued game misconduct penalties to several players who made bad hits only to be overruled. But if the NHL leads the way, he said, it will filter down even to youth hockey.

"Really, what it takes is this," Fraser said, holding up a silver referee's whistle. "You need to blow the whistle, call the penalties and get everybody on the same page. ... The culture will change very quickly." Several speakers warned against rushing an injured player back to the ice, especially in youth hockey, because concussions interfere with a child's most important job: succeeding in school. Headaches and confusion may go away quickly, but subtle damage inside the brain can take weeks, months or longer to heal.

Dave Morinville, the boys' hockey coach at Moorhead High School, recalled his

days as a goaltender in high school and college. He said he'd get hit in the head, and coaches would revive him with smelling salts and send him right back out because they didn't want him to become afraid of the puck.

"Nobody wants to have a player out because of a concussion — nobody does," Morinville said. "So it's something we have to discuss. But I don't want to take away the contact part of the game because that's part of the beauty of the sport." Mark Lovell, founding director of Sports Medicine Concussion Program at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, warned against trusting players who say they're OK.

"The athlete will pretty much tell us anything they think we want to know to get back on the ice — everybody recognizes that," Lovell said. "In professional-level athletes we know that happens. I'm here to tell you that it happens just as often in children down to age 5 or 6 who will sit and lie to you about their symptoms because they don't want to miss the soccer game or the hockey game."

Jim Johnson, who played for 13 years in the NHL before his career was cut short by

a concussion in 1997, was among several speakers stressing that doctors should

be the ones who decide when a player is ready to return.

"We need to take this decision making power out of the hands of the players' hands, and at the youth level, we need to take it out of the parents' hands," Johnson said.

Several speakers expressed skepticism that better equipment will make a big difference.

"We could make hockey helmets a little better. ... But the mild traumatic brain injury problem is not going to be solved by the helmet, because the helmet is just along for the ride," said David Halstead, director of the sports biomechanics laboratory at the University of Tennessee.

Some prep programs are switching to the hot new M11 helmet developed by Cascade Sports and Hockey Hall of Famer Mark Messier, which is designed to absorb higher impacts than conventional helmets. Among them is The Blake School, where girls coach Brano Stankovsky said better equipment is important, but not always the answer.

Checking isn't allowed in girls hockey, but collisions happen anyway and girls aren't always prepared for them, he said.

"We as coaches need to get them prepared," Stankovsky said. □



The Boston Celtics head coach Doc Rivers smiles as he passes students after their practice at the team's training camp at Salve Regina University in Newport, R.I., Tuesday, Sept. 28, 2010.

Associated Press

Rivers cancer-free after having biopsy

BOSTON (AP) — Boston Celtics coach Doc Rivers said he was cancer-free after having a biopsy on Sunday. His doctor found a spot on his throat three weeks ago and he decided to have it checked.

"They found cancerous lesions," Rivers said on Tuesday. "They had to make sure there was nothing there, and there was nothing, so I'm good. I'm going to be around for a while it looks like."

Rivers said he has his throat checked every year after prompting from former Celtics coach Jim O'Brien.

"I think most coaches should because we yell, use our throat a lot," Rivers said. "That makes you more susceptible to it. I'm glad I did it now."

The Celtics had said that Rivers had a "minor throat procedure" done to relieve pressure on his vocal chords. Assistant coach Lawrence Frank did most of the on-court coaching on Tuesday while Rivers watched from the sidelines.

"I like Lawrence as my megaphone," Rivers joked.

Rivers is expected to coach the team on Wednesday when the Celtics play the New Jersey Nets in their final pre-season game. □

HARD HITS**Continued from Page B1**

"Physical, tough football is what people are attracted to," said Ray Anderson, the NFL's executive vice president of football operations. "Violent, unnecessary hits that put people at risk, not just for the careers but lives ... we're not subscribing to the notion fans want that."

Commissioner Roger Goodell told the teams that "further action is required to emphasize the importance of teaching safe and controlled techniques and of playing within the rules."

"It is incumbent on all of us to support the rules we have in place to protect players," he said.

But some players think the league is asking for something much more difficult: complete changes in playing style — changes that fans don't want to see.

Not surprisingly, defensive players are most critical.

"What they're trying to say — 'We're protecting the integrity' — no, you're not," Bears cornerback Charles Tillman said. "It's ruining the integrity. It's not even football anymore. We should just go out there and play two-hand touch Sunday if we can't make contact."

Miami linebacker Channing Crowder said the only way of preventing helmet-to-helmet hits is to eliminate the helmet. "If I get a chance to knock somebody out, I'm going to knock them out and take what they give me," Crowder said.

"They give me a helmet, I'm going to use it."

The players are questioning how they are supposed to adhere to the heightened emphasis on avoiding dangerous hits when it goes against everything they've been taught since they first stepped on the field as kids.

"Guys have to be coached differently because we've been coached a certain way our whole lives," said Cleveland linebacker Scott Fujita, a member of the executive committee of the players' union, the NFLPA. "I think people out there would be shocked at the things players hear in their meetings with their coaches and the things they are supposed to do, the way they are taught to hit people."

Many players also wanted stronger discipline for flagrant fouls to be part of their negotiations for a new collective bargaining agreement, not something unilaterally imposed six weeks into the season.

"We want to protect the players, absolutely," Fujita said. "But we need to have a longer conversation about it, and if you're going to impose sweeping changes like that and talk about suspending players, that's something that you have to address in the offseason."

Anderson argues that the way the game is played, officiated and policed will only change for the better — and safer.

"We are not going to fundamentally change the game. We're focused on one

thing, illegal hits to the head and neck area," he said. "We hope to culturally change it so players understand those head hits under existing rules should be taken out of the game. For players who can't make the adjustment on their own, they will get a lot of help from this office to make sure they don't play that way."

Officials will be instructed to have an even higher level of attention toward flagrant hits, which Anderson categorized as limited "but very high profile and damaging."

The NFL's crackdown was welcomed in the medical community.

Dr. William Bingaman, vice chairman of the Neurological Institute at the Cleveland Clinic and one of the independent doctors who examines concussed players to determine when they can return to action, sees it as a positive step.

But it's hardly a cure-all for preventing head injuries — or any other injuries — in the NFL, where the players are bigger and faster, and the enhanced equipment can make them foolishly gallant. "We will never eliminate the dangers of a concussion occurring," Bingaman said, taking note that both Robinson and Jackson suffered concussions in their collision. "It's huge that we have the proper equipment and the proper training and proper tackling techniques.

"Anything that reduces a blow to the head, naturally I am in favor of that, because there



In this Oct. 17, 2010, file photo, Pittsburgh Steelers linebacker James Harrison (92) hits Cleveland Browns wide receiver Mohamed Massaquoi (11) during the second quarter of a an NFL football game in Pittsburgh. Harrison was fined \$75,000 on Tuesday, Oct. 19, 2010, for his hit against Massaquoi.

Associated Press

is less risk and less incidents

NFL.

"The guys who have had the knack to lay somebody out, I consider it a talent in itself," Broncos safety David Bruton said. "I feel as though these deterrents would be depriving them of the chance to showcase their abilities."

Anderson disagreed. □



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Yankees beat Rangers 7-2, close to 3-2 in ALCS

By RONALD BLUM

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK—CC Sabathia pitched like a champion, and the New York Yankees are heading for Texas. A whole lot better than heading home.

Nick Swisher and Robinson Cano hit consecutive homers to build an early cushion, Sabathia made the lead stand up and the Yankees avoided elimination, beating the Rangers 7-2 Wednesday and closing within 3-2 in the AL championship series.

"We're right where we need to be," Swisher said. A late-arriving crowd for the late-afternoon game wondered whether this would be it for the defending World Series champs after Texas outscored them 25-5 while winning three in a row.

But Sabathia bounced back from an erratic opener, staying away from too much trouble against Josh Hamilton and Texas' big bats. Rangers slugger Nelson Cruz made an early exit with hamstring trouble, a day after Yankees star Mark Teixeira was lost for the postseason with a hamstring injury. Curtis Granderson added an eighth-inning homer for New York, his second RBI of the game.

"There was a determination," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said. "We have not played extremely well in this series, to say the least."

Now the teams will go deep in the heart of Texas to decide the pennant in the best-of-seven series.

When they resume Friday night in Arlington for Game 6, Phil Hughes starts for the Yankees against Colby Lewis in a rematch of Game 2, won by the Rangers 7-2.

"It's not disappointing,"



New York Yankees' Nick Swisher, right, congratulates Robinson Cano after Cano's solo home run against the Texas Rangers in the second inning of Game 4 of baseball's American League Championship Series Tuesday, Oct. 19, 2010, in New York.

Associated Press

Rangers manager Ron Washington said. "It's a seven-game series."

In the 50th anniversary of a franchise that has never reached the World Series, Texas remains one win away. To get past the Rangers, the Yankees will eventually have to solve postseason star Cliff Lee, who would start a Game 7 against Andy Pettitte.

"Crazier things have happened," Swisher said. New York is trying to overcome its first 3-1 postseason deficit 1958. Since the LCS went to a best-of-seven format, 24 of the 30 previous teams to take 3-1 series leads have won pennants.

No matter what, the season is over for Teixeira. The All-Star first baseman was removed from the postseason roster and replaced by Eduardo Nunez, and Teixeira would not be eligible for the World Series. Lance Berkman took over at first base and had a scare when he slipped chasing Ian Kinsler's foul

pop, causing his head and back to snap back. Berkman stayed in the game and later caught a foul popup for the final out.

"I imagine he's going to be pretty sore tomorrow," Girardi said. "He gutted it out today for us."

On what would have been Bob Sheppard's 100th birthday and Mickey Mantle's 79th, the Yankees took a 3-0 lead in the second as C.J. Wilson seemed to have trouble with a muddy mound and created a hole with a pair of four-pitch walks.

Jorge Posada and Granderson had run-scoring singles, and another run scored on an error by right fielder Jeff Francoeur.

Sabathia lasted just four innings in the opener, when he started on eight days' rest and the Yankees rallied from a five-run deficit. Leads of 5-0 and 6-1 never seemed comfortable in this one as he allowed two runs and 11 hits — matching his season high — in six innings with no walks. His

key outs came in the sixth, when the Rangers loaded the bases with one out.

Matt Treanor, who had homered in the fifth, hit an RBI grounder. Then, culminating an eight-pitch at-bat, Sabathia froze No. 9 hitter Mitch Moreland with a curveball to strike him out. The big man responded with a fist pump.

Kerry Wood had his second big pickoff of the series in the seventh. Elvis Andrus singled leading, advanced on a wild pitch and was caught leaning by Wood, who caught Kinsler off first in the eighth inning of the opener. After Wood struck out three in two scoreless innings, Mariano Rivera finished in a non-save situation as the moon rose above the ballpark in right.

Texas has dominated, outscoring the Yankees 32-18 and outhitting them .316 to .217. New York is batting just .160 (8 for 50) with runners in scoring position, and Alex Rodriguez (.176), Swisher (.105) and Marcus Thames (.154) all have

failed to hit their weight. Teixeira (0 for 14) has been replaced by Berkman (.222).

While the aggressive Rangers have swiped nine bases in 10 chances, they've also been picked off twice in the late innings. Wilson threw just 48 of 93 pitches for strikes, giving up six runs — five earned — six hits and four walks in six innings as Texas lost for the first time in six postseason road games this year.

New York took a 3-0 lead in the second with the help of the Rangers' sloppiness. Walks to Rodriguez and Berkman put two on with one out, and Posada singled sharply to left on a 2-0 pitch to put the Yankees ahead.

Granderson fisted a soft single into right field to drive in Berkman, and Francoeur overthrew third. Posada scored on Francoeur's error as Wilson, who was backing up, threw past Treanor at the plate — Posada easily would have been out with an accurate throw.

Swisher, who had been 1 for 16 (.063) in the series, sent a fastball just inside the left-field seats leading off the third. Two pitches later, Cano pulled a breaking ball over the right-field scoreboard to make it 5-0. Treanor homered to left leading off the bottom half, and singles by Moreland and Michael Young put two on with one out. Hamilton, who has four homers in the series, pounded a hittable 1-1 fastball into the grass for a 4-6-3 double play.

Rodriguez, just 2 for 16 in the series, doubled with one on in the bottom half, and Berkman's sacrifice fly made it 6-1. New York wasted Granderson's leadoff double in the sixth, when Swisher grounded into an inning-ending double play. □

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Bruins beat Caps 3-1, finally headed home

WASHINGTON (AP) — David Krejci and Milan Lucic each had a goal and an assist in the first period as the Boston Bruins ended the Washington Capitals' four-game winning streak with a 3-1 victory Tuesday night.

NHL Roundup Matt Hunwick added a goal, and Tim Thomas made 35 saves to improve to 3-0 for the Bruins, who held Alex Ovechkin without a point for the first time in the young season.

Rookie Marcus Johansson scored the lone goal for the Capitals, whose high-powered offense has yet to catch stride — even as their penalty kill remains perfect. Washington held Boston scoreless on four power plays, leaving opponents 0 for 25 through six games. The Bruins scored twice on Michal Neuvirth before the Capitals goaltender left the game in the first period because of illness. Semyon Varlamov came on in relief and stopped 13 of 14 shots.

Flames 1, Predators 0, OT At Nashville, Rene Bourque scored at 2:10 of overtime to give Calgary an away victory. After winning their first three games of the season, the Predators have lost back-to-back games, both in overtime. Calgary has won two straight. Parked in the low slot, Bourque corralled the rebound of a tough angle shot by Brendan Morrison and beat Predators goaltender Pekka Rinne on the stick side.

After missing Calgary's past two games with a concussion, Bourque got his first goal of the season.

Flames goaltender Miikka Kiprusoff stopped 34 shots for

his first shutout of the season and 35th of his career.

Wild 6, Canucks 2

At St. Paul, Marek Zidlicky had a goal and two assists as Minnesota scored three times on the power play.

Guillaume Latendresse, Cal Clutterbuck, John Madden, Andrew Brunette and Matt Cullen also scored for the Wild, who entered the game with the league's best power play at 38.1 percent, and was 3 for 3 with the man advantage. Daniel Sedin scored twice for Vancouver, which could see center Rick Rypien facing disciplinary action after pushing a fan.

Rypien and Minnesota's Brad Staubitz, who fought in the opening period, were about

to square off in the second period before being separated by the linesmen in front of the Wild bench. As Rypien, who was assessed a double minor for roughing and a 10-minute misconduct, was pulled by linesman Don Henderson toward the Vancouver bench, he appeared to push the official. On his way down the tunnel to the dressing room, Rypien pushed a Wild fan who was applauding at the railing. Rypien was quickly pulled away by teammate Manny Malhotra.

In other NHL games it was Boston 3, Washington 1; Calgary 1, Nashville 0, OT; Minnesota 6, Vancouver 2; and Carolina 5, San Jose 2. □



Boston Bruins right wing Nathan Horton (18) and center David Krejci, left, celebrate after Krejci scored goal as Washington Capitals defenseman Tyler Sloan (89) during the first period of an NHL hockey game at the Verizon Center in Washington, Tuesday, Oct. 19, 2010. Horton assisted Krejci's goal.

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Shannon Briggs says he will be back after surgery

HAMBURG, Germany (AP) — American heavyweight fighter Shannon Briggs pledged Wednesday to return to the ring after surgery to repair a torn tendon in his left arm. Briggs said that apart from the arm injury, he felt fine despite absorbing heavy punishment in his loss to Vitali Klitschko on Saturday. He has been hospitalized since the fight and is scheduled to have surgery on his arm on Friday.

"I'm fine, I am looking forward to coming back, I feel great," Briggs told reporters on Wednesday at the Hamburg hospital.

The 38-year-old fighter

did not give a date for his comeback and said he would consult with his management and his wife before setting a schedule. Briggs will have to rest for six weeks after Friday's surgery. Briggs walked into the room wearing dark sunglasses but later took them off and said his face was fine despite earlier reports that he had broken bones around both eyes. A little swelling, especially around the left eye, could be seen. He also undressed to his undershirt to show a heavily swollen bicep on his left arm. Briggs said he was injured in first round. "I didn't know what it was but I knew that something

was wrong," Briggs said. Briggs went the distance despite taking 171 clean hits by the heavy-punching Klitschko. "It was one of the toughest fights of my life, it was a brutal fight," Briggs said. "It was a tough experience." German media have criticized ring officials and Briggs' corner for not stopping the contest but Briggs said quitting "wasn't an option" and had instructed his corner not to throw in the towel.

"You can't quit in front of your wife," Briggs said. Klitschko and his younger brother Wladimir, also a heavyweight champion, visited Briggs in the

hospital. "They are great fighters and great champions who are good for boxing," Briggs said.



Challenger Shannon Briggs of the U.S. is hit by WBC world champion Vitali Klitschko of the Ukraine during their heavy weight boxing title bout in Hamburg, Germany, Saturday, Oct. 16, 2010. On Monday Oct. 18, 2010 Briggs said he will remain in a Hamburg hospital because of a left-arm injury he suffered in a heavy beating taken in his loss to Vitali Klitschko. Briggs lost a unanimous decision to the Ukrainian in the WBC title fight and stayed upright despite absorbing more than 170 direct hits in Saturday's bout.

Associated Press

hospital. "They are great fighters and great champions who are good for boxing," Briggs said. Briggs will spend one more week in the Hamburg hospital after Friday's surgery. □

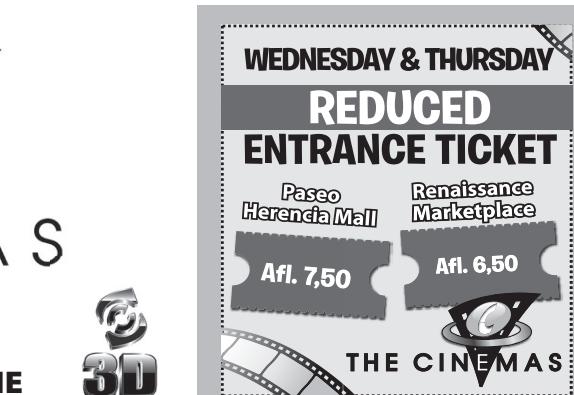


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EASY A		
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matinee:	12.00 - 2.15	
late show:	11.00	PG-13
THE TOWN		
daily:	6.15 - 9.00	
matinee:		
late show:	11.30	PG-13
DEVIL		
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matinee:		
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CATS & DOGS KITTY GALORE 3D		
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AQUARIUS



This March 29, 2010, file photo shows Ernie Els, of South Africa, holding up the Arnold Palmer trophy after winning the Arnold Palmer Invitational golf tournament at Bay Hill in Orlando, Fla.

Associated Press

Els wins the Grand Slam in Bermuda

Els, an alternate who was filling in for Masters champion Phil Mickelson, closed with a 2-under 69 and earned \$600,000. It was his second victory in the 36-hole event for the year's four major champions. Els also won in 1997 when it was at Poipu Bay.

This time, he figured he was playing for second place.

Toms, another alternate who replaced British Open champion Louis Oosthuizen, chipped in for birdie on No. 12 and stretched his lead to three shots when Els bogeyed the 13th. Els made the first of his successive birdies on the 14th at Port Royal Golf Course, but his hopes for a two-shot swing ended when Toms again chipped in, this time for par.

"When a guy does it once, you're thinking, 'Good shot.' When he does it twice in three holes, you're thinking maybe he's destined to win this thing," Els said. "It took a bit of the pressure off me in a way, where I freewheeled it, tried to see how close I could get to him."

The turning point came on the 15th, when Els made birdie

SOUTHAMPTON, Bermuda (AP) — Ernie Els ran off three straight birdies on the back nine Wednesday and turned a three-shot deficit into a one-shot victory over David Toms in the PGA Grand Slam of Golf. □

Olazabal unsure if he can be Ryder Cup captain

CASTELLON, Spain (AP) — Jose Maria Olazabal is unsure whether he will accept an invitation to captain the Europe Ryder Cup team at Medinah in 2012.

Olazabal fears he may not be able to meet the European Tour's essential requirement that he play a full tournament schedule in two years to get close to potential members of the team.

The European Tour's tournament committee plans to meet in Abu Dhabi in January to name the successor to Colin Montgomerie, who regained the cup from the United States 14½ to 13½ at Celtic Manor this month.

Olazabal is favorite for the job after being a vice captain at Valhalla two years ago and joining Montgomerie's backroom staff in Wales.

But having suffered from a severe rheumatic problem in recent years, his future playing career is uncertain.

"There is an issue and we have got to sit down and



Europe's assistant captain Jose Maria Olazabal, center, is applauded by team members during the trophy presentation after winning the 2010 Ryder Cup golf tournament at the Celtic Manor Resort in Newport, Wales, Monday, Oct. 4, 2010.

Associated Press

talk about it," he said on Wednesday on the eve of the Castello Masters.

"I do not know what my health will be like in 12 months' time and whether I will be able to play a full schedule in 2012 to be around the players as they would like.

"We need to talk and work out whether there are ways around it. Whether I could do it another way.

"Yes, I want the job because you know the Ryder Cup has always meant so much to me. But I am not a prophet, I cannot say whether I will be well enough to be playing on tour in a year's time.

"It would hurt me to say no, but if that is the right decision my conscience will be clear. I have been thinking about it for a long while and that's why I have put the issue on the table." □

Spain heads FIFA rankings; Russia surges to 10th

ZURICH (AP) — World Cup-winner Spain still reigned the FIFA rankings published on Wednesday, and Croatia and Russia returned to the top 10 using victories in 2012 European Championship qualifiers.

France bounced back into the top 20, rising seven places to No. 18, after sinking to a historic low last month. The United States dropped seven to No. 25 having played only friendlies since the World Cup, while European and African teams gathered ranking points from higher-value continental qualifiers.

Spain won both of its Euro 2012 matches this month and continues to

lead the Netherlands, which also had a pair of victories, in second.

Brazil rose to No. 3 in a swap with fourth-ranked Germany. Argentina was fifth, followed by England, Uruguay, Portugal and Croatia.

Russia's Euro 2012 wins over Ireland and Macedonia lifted it 15 spots to No. 10, edging African champion Egypt into 11th place.

Slovenia was at a best-ever No. 15, ahead of Italy which fell three places. International football's newest member, Montenegro, continued its recent surge to No. 26 following a victory over Switzerland and a draw away to England.

Australia heads the Asian countries at No. 21, and New Zealand leads Oceania at No. 51.

Victories in 2012 African Cup of Nations qualifiers fired Guinea and Niger up the standings.

Guinea was No. 47, up 34 places after a 1-0 upset win against Nigeria, and Niger was rewarded for shocking Egypt 1-0 with a rise of 54 spots to No. 100.

The Central African Republic was bottom of the rankings after a three-year absence from play, but improved to 112th of 207 football nations after beating World Cup team Algeria 2-0. □

Serena Williams done for 2010, just like Venus

HOWARD FENDRICH

AP Tennis Writer

Serena Williams is done for the season, just like her sister. In a statement e-mailed to the AP by her agent, the younger Williams said Tuesday she "re-tore the tendon" in her right foot, which she originally injured by cutting it on glass at a restaurant shortly after winning Wimbledon in July. Williams had surgery in New York on Monday; she first had the foot repaired July 15. Her announcement comes less than two weeks after Venus Williams said she won't play for the rest of the year because of a lingering injury to her left

knee. Both sisters will miss the WTA Championships next week in Doha, Qatar, and the Fed Cup final between the United States and Italy next month at San Diego. Serena hasn't played on tour since July 3, when she overwhelmed Vera Zvonareva 6-3, 6-2 to win her fourth Wimbledon championship and 13th Grand Slam singles title overall, the most among active women.

The American cut her right foot on glass at a restaurant while she was in Munich after her victory at the All England Club, but she went ahead and played in an exhibition match

July 8 in Brussels against Kim Clijsters that drew a tennis-record crowd of more than 35,000. A week later, Serena had an operation on the foot in Los Angeles.

After withdrawing from the U.S. Open, she returned to practice in September, but then put off her comeback by pulling out of tournaments in Tokyo, Beijing and Linz, Austria.

On Oct. 10, in a posting on her official website, Serena said she "restrained" her foot by overtraining and "likely" would be out of the year. Her statement Tuesday said: "It is with deep frustration



Nieminen sweeps past Berdych in Stockholm

KEITH MOORE

Associated Press Writer

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Finland's Jarkko Nieminen swept past a below-par Tomas Berdych 6-1, 6-4 Wednesday to make it through to the quarterfinals of the Stockholm Open.

No. 6 Berdych lost seven consecutive games at one point against a player ranked 39 places lower, and whom he had beaten in four previous encounters.

Backed by a supportive crowd at the Royal Tennis Hall, Nieminen got off to a fast start and broke third-seeded Berdych twice to take the first set.

Nieminen then took a 2-0 lead at the start of the second, and played some inspired tennis, including a laser-guided backhand pass in the

fifth game that Czech-born Berdych could only watch.

Fifth-seeded Stanislas Wawrinka also advanced, the Swiss hitting 12 aces on the way to beating Robin Haase of the Netherlands in a marathon 2½-hour three-setter 7-5, 6-7 (6), 6-4.

Wawrinka recovered from a shaky start, coming back to break Haase twice in the last three games of the first set. Both players held serve in the second, with Haase eventually prevailing after a closely fought tie-break.

It was a mixed match for Wawrinka. He ripped some fine backhand and forehand winners, but also overhit some shots when Haase looked beaten.

"It was a really tough match for me today," Wawrinka said. "I had four match points I



Finland's Jarkko Nieminen returns the ball to Czech Republic's Tomas Berdych during the ATP Stockholm Open tennis tournament Wednesday Oct. 20, 2010 in Stockholm, Sweden.

Associated Press

think in the second set, but I just tried to stay focussed on my game and concentrate for the third set."

In the quarterfinals, Wawrinka will meet the winner of Thursday's match between compatriot Roger Federer and the American Taylor Dent.

In the remaining first round matches, Matthias Bachinger of Germany beat Poland's Lukasz Kubot in three sets 6-4, 4-6, 6-3, and countryman Tobias Kamke defeated Jan Hajek of the Czech Republic 6-0, 6-2.

Florian Mayer of Germany beat Sweden's Michael Ryderstedt in straight sets 6-4, 6-4 on center court in the last match of the day. □

FILE-In this July 1, 2010, file photo, Serena Williams of the United States, hits a return to Petra Kvitova of the Czech Republic, at the All England Lawn Tennis Championships at Wimbledon. In a statement e-mailed to the AP by her agent, the younger Williams says Tuesday she "re-tore the tendon" in her right foot, which she originally injured by cutting it on glass at a restaurant shortly after winning Wimbledon in July. Williams says she had "another procedure to repair" the tendon on Monday.

Associated Press

that I am withdrawing from the WTA Championships at Doha and the Fed Cup Final. Pushed by my desire to return to competition, I trained too hard too soon and re-tore the tendon in my foot. As a result, yesterday morning I had to have another procedure to repair it. I thank everyone for their continued support during this difficult time and look forward with strength and determination to getting back on the court."

Earlier this year, Serena missed all of February, March and April because of a left knee problem. So she closes 2010 having participated in only six singles tournaments, going 25-4 with two titles — at the Australian Open and Wimbledon.

She lost the No. 1 ranking last week to Denmark's Caroline Wozniacki, who has yet to win a Grand Slam tournament. Serena also went 18-1 with three doubles titles in 2010, all with Venus as her partner. In singles, Venus went 38-7 with two titles and is No. 4 in this week's WTA rankings, two spots behind Serena. Venus announced on Oct. 6 that she

would be sidelined for the rest of this season because her knee injury.

In August, both Williams sisters told the U.S. Tennis Association they planned to play against Italy in the Nov. 6-7 Fed Cup final on an indoor hard court at the San Diego Sports Arena.

"It's unfortunate about Venus and Serena. The team was really looking forward to having them on the team," Fed Cup captain Mary Joe Fernandez said in a statement released by the USTA on Tuesday. "We wish them a speedy recovery. Our team is excited to be in final for second straight year and we will give it our all as usual and try to pull off another upset."

Neither Williams has competed for the U.S. Fed Cup team since 2007.

The rest of the U.S. roster includes 2009 U.S. Open quarterfinalist Melanie Oudin, Bethanie Mattek-Sands and leading doubles player Liezel Huber.

The United States hasn't won a Fed Cup title since 2000 and lost to Italy in last year's final. □

Aruba TODAY

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Apple launches new MacBook Air ultralight laptops

By JORDAN ROBERTSON,
AP Technology Writer

CUPERTINO, Calif. — Apple Inc. unveiled new MacBook Air ultralight laptops and offered a few glimpses of its new Mac operating system software Wednesday.

Apple CEO Steve Jobs introduced the two new MacBook Air models, saying, "We asked ourselves: What would happen if a MacBook and an iPad hooked up?"

One of the new laptops has a screen that's 13.3 inches diagonally. The second has an 11.6-inch screen.

Like the past generation, the MacBook Air can't read CDs or DVDs. This generation also doesn't have a hard disk drive. Instead, it uses all flash memory, like the iPhone does. The larger MacBook Air is 0.68 inches at its thickest point and weighs 2.9 pounds, and has a battery life of seven hours. The smaller one weighs 2.2 pounds and is rated to last five hours. Both can sit on standby for 30 days.

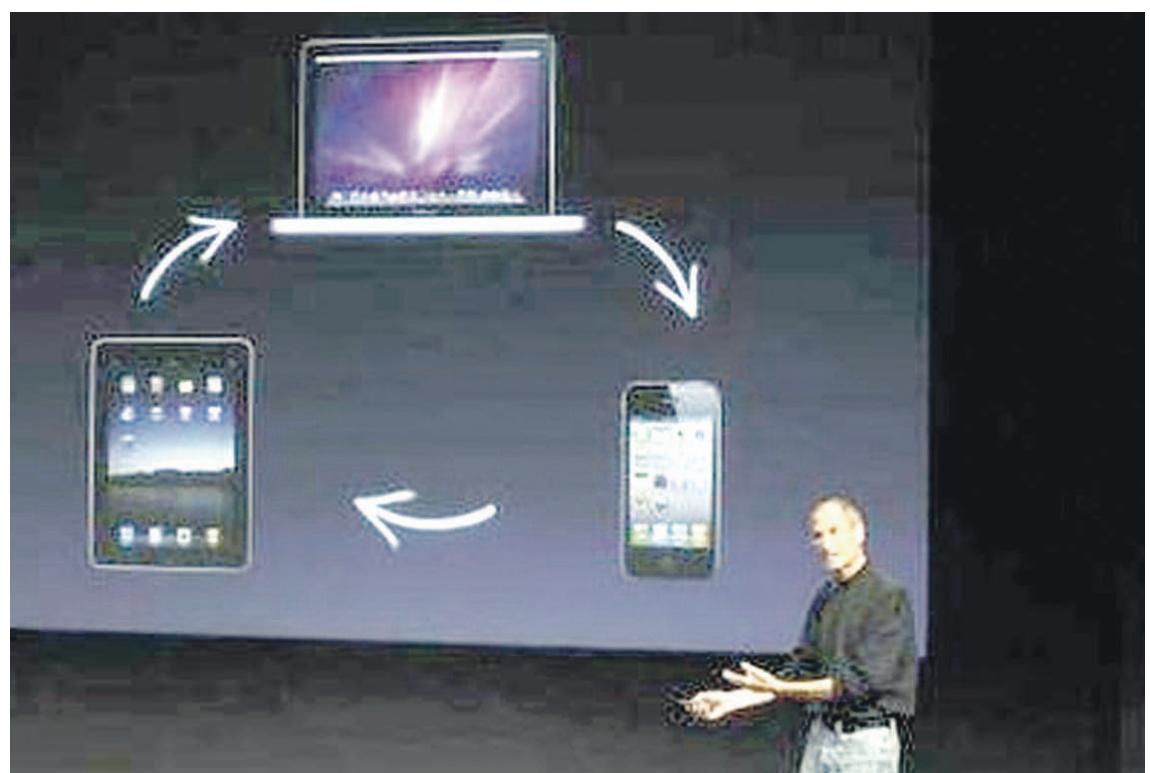
The smaller one costs \$999 with 64 gigabytes of flash memory storage, or \$1,199

with 128 gigabytes. The larger one costs \$1,299 with 128 gigabytes or \$1,599 with 256 gigabytes.

Apple also announced a new version of its operating system, called Mac OS X Lion, that will include a store for Mac software. It's similar to the iTunes store that sells apps for iPhone, iPod Touch and iPad.

Other Lion features mimic those on the iPhone or iPad. Mac users can move from the main desktop to a "dashboard" filled with widgets by swiping a multitouch mouse or trackpad. People can drag one program icon on top of another to create a new folder. Lion is expected during summer 2011. Apple didn't say how much it would cost. The company is also adding FaceTime video chatting to Macs, a feature that debuted this summer on the iPhone 4. And the company demonstrated the new version of iLife, its programs for managing photos, editing videos and music and doing other tasks.

Apple is adding more ties



Apple CEO Steve Jobs unveils the latest improvements to the company's Mac software during a news conference at Apple Inc. headquarters in Cupertino, California October 20, 2010. Apple is looking to increase market share gains against Microsoft Windows-based PCs. In the quarter that just ended, Mac revenue was \$4.9 billion, less than a quarter of Apple's overall revenue.

between its iPhoto program and the popular social networking site Facebook. When people look at pictures they've published on Facebook, iPhoto displays comments friends made on that site.

Other new features include the

ability to manage photos in a full-screen view, slick new slideshow templates and the ability to e-mail customized photo-postcards from iPhoto. In iMovie, Apple improved audio editing and the ability to easily piece together movie trailers.

iLife '11 comes installed on new Macs and can be purchased as an upgrade for \$49 starting Wednesday. The previous 2009 version cost \$30 more.

Apple's stock edged up \$2.90 to \$312.39 in afternoon trading. □



In this screen-shot provided by Starbucks Corp., the website for Starbucks' Digital Network is displayed on an Apple iPad. Starbucks Corp. is launching its digital network on Wednesday, Oct. 20, 2010, giving users free access to some paid sites such as the Wall Street Journal, free e-books and other content to better compete with its rivals.

By EMILY FREDRIX,
AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK — Starbucks is adding a venti-sized dollop of free books, news and entertainment to its Internet offerings starting Wednesday. The coffee chain's new digital network promises customers free e-books, movies and

other exclusives, including free access to some paid Web sites such as The Wall Street Journal, is meant to get customers spending more on drinks and content they buy through the site.

The move comes as Starbucks faces steep competition from McDonald's Corp. and other

fast-food chains pushing increasingly fancy coffee drinks. But it also offers Starbucks a chance to make money by selling songs, e-books and other material to customers who linger over its free Wi-Fi, which saw 30 million log-ins last month.

Starbucks Corp. started offering free wireless Internet access in July. The new network, a partnership with Yahoo, is the next step in its strategy.

Customers will see the network as soon as they connect to Starbucks' Internet on their smart phones, computer or tablets, such as the iPad. A welcome page allows customers to scroll through various sections including entertainment, wellness, business and careers, and "my neighborhood," where they can find community news,

restaurant reviews and more. Other partners also include Apple Inc.'s iTunes, The New York Times, Patch, USA Today and Zagat. The offerings include advance copies of books, through deals with publishers such as HarperCollins and Penguin Group books, and iTunes downloads.

Most of the free content - from movies to books and news - can be read or viewed only in Starbucks. The content was designed so it could be consumed in small doses, anywhere from five minutes to 20.

That way, people either want to buy the content outright to take with them, or return to Starbucks again. The sites were designed to remember where people leave off in a book or a movie, so picking it back up is seamless.

When customers buy the content, say a newspaper subscription or an e-book, Starbucks makes money by taking a cut of the sale. The company declined to specify its share.

The companies designed the site and its content to be consumed in smaller bits after observing customers, said Burke Culligan, vice president of product management at Yahoo.

"Users across the Internet are moving more into this 'snackable behavior' to begin with," he said.

The company, based in Seattle, worked to get content its customers wouldn't find anywhere else so people have a reason to go to Starbucks beyond the coffee, said Adam Brotman, vice president of Starbucks Digital Ventures. □

Curly haired Muppet is role model for little girls



In this publicity image released by Sesame Street, a brown muppet representing an African-American girl is shown during the taping of the 'I Love My Hair,' video for the children's program, 'Sesame Street.' The video was inspired by the five-year-old daughter of 'Sesame Street' head writer Joey Mazzarino.

(AP Photo/Sesame Street, Zach Hyman)

By MELANIE SIMS,
Associated Press Writer

CHICAGO — A plucky little muppet in a pretty pink dress, her brown hair a perky 'fro, is helping little girls — and their moms — to accept themselves just the way they are by loving their hair.

The nameless muppet manages to trim away generations of yearning for long, silky locks with her song, "I Love My Hair" and has become an Internet sensation. Now her creator wants to give her a life beyond YouTube.

"I really want to sit down with the writers and figure out what we can do with her and give her a name, and really expand her out," said Joey Mazzarino, head writer for "Sesame Street," who co-wrote "I Love My Hair" with composer Chris Jackson. (Jackson played Simba in "The Lion King"; Chantylla 'Chauncey' Johnson, who sings the song, also appeared in the Broadway show as Nala.)

The video is being shared on Twitter, and posted on gossip sites and blogs. It is popping up on Facebook pages and discussed in the comments section on YouTube, where the original clip gets a steady stream of views. It was posted Oct. 12, and had more than 600,000 views on YouTube as of Wednesday, and tens of thousands more at other sites. The tune is breezy and bouncy, the lyrics simple and filled with pride: "Don't need a trip to the beauty shop, 'cause I love what I got on top — it's

curly and it's brown and it's right up there. You know what I love? My hair!"

With fast cuts, the Muppet changes hair styles — braids, poufy ponytail, curly top. And no matter what the style, "I want to make the world aware, I love my hair," she sings with happy confidence. "When I first did the song, it really touched me because I really love my hair," said Johnson. "My hair is very curly. And the thing I like about the song is that it shows the different ways I can do my hair." The 13-year-old recently read for a part in a new production about Josephine Baker.

"It struck a particular chord with African-American moms like me," said author Denene Millner, a columnist for parenting.com and the creator of parenting blog MyBrownBaby. "I think that at some point, if you have a little girl, we all deal with the day your child comes home from school and says, 'I don't want my hair to look like this; I want it to look like Annie's.' And Annie's hair is blond and long and not what she has."

She says she is teaching her daughters Mari and Lila — ages 11 and 8 — to "love their hair as it grows out of their head." Millner, like many African-American women, recalls the big plastic comb, thick grease and sizzling hot comb used on her hair when she was a little girl.

"It was horrible," she said.

It was a similar discussion

with his 5-year-old daughter Segi over tight, curly hair that inspired Mazzarino to craft the song and video. He and his wife, both white, adopted the little girl from Ethiopia, who told them that she "wanted her hair to be long or blond like Barbie or a princess." Mazzarino said this bothered him.

"I thought it was because she had two white parents that she was going through this. And I didn't know about the larger sort of issues with African-American girls until Chris Rock's movie came out," he said, referring to Rock's 2009 documentary "Good Hair," which takes a serious, and sometimes lighthearted, look at the black hair care industry and the history behind concepts of so-called "good hair."

The idea of "straight" or "white" hair has been an albatross for black American women and men, tied to slavery and racism, and a society that stripped them of pride by defining beauty in terms of only one ethnic standard.

The lengths some women and girls would take to "look white" was poignantly framed by Whoopi Goldberg in her 1984 one-woman show on Broadway. She played a 9-year-old who pours bleach over her brown body and wears a white slip on her head as pretend long blond hair. The child wants to be on "The Love Boat," a cruise ship sitcom from the 1970s-'80s.

"I think there's a larger part society can play. And I say this, being a dad of an African-American girl. ... The images she sees and the Barbies she gets and the American Girl dolls she gets — even if they have brown skin, the hair's not right. It's all straight," he said. "They do have a little curl but it looks like straight Caucasian hair that's had a curling iron to it."

The day the video was shot, Mazzarino said, everyone felt the power of the song.

"All the African-American women came down to (the set) to watch," said Mazzarino, who has been with "Sesame Street" since 1990. "If there's

a celebrity, people will come down to watch. But really, it touched them. And I think I should have known that — that this is something that is deeper than just your kids."

Mazzarino said he would like to do more self-esteem videos like "I Love My Hair" or even recreate older "Sesame Street" clips such as "Skin I'm In," performed by 1970s-era

Muppet Roosevelt Franklin. "I'm looking at those — possibly redoing them, or coming up with new songs that would work for kids (on) issues like hair or skin color and things like that," he said. Meanwhile, a little Muppet girl in pretty pink dress says it all: "I love my hair ... there's nothing else that can compare, I love my hair." □



In this publicity image released by Universal Republic Records, members of the band Atomic Tom, from left, Tobias Smith, Eric Espiritu, Luke White and Philip Galitzine, are shown.

(AP Photo/Universal Republic Records)

Armed with only iPhones, a rock band goes viral

By JAKE COYLE,
AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK — Armed with only iPhones, an inventive rock band has gone viral by way of the subway.

The Brooklyn band Atomic Tom has scored an Internet hit with its self-created video to the song "Take Me Out." In the video, the band members ride a New York City subway while performing entirely on iPhones, with apps for each instrument. In the video, the four crouch on subway seats, specifically the B train while it crosses the Manhattan Bridge. Singer Luke White clutches an iPhone like a microphone, guitarist Eric Espiritu and bassist Philip Galitzine strum chords across iPhone screens like tiny instruments, and drummer Tobias Smith taps on a drum app. It has been watched by more than 2 million on YouTube since debuting last week.

"All I've wanted to do for the past few days is just stare at the YouTube page and keep refreshing it to see how far it will go," the 29-year-old Espiritu said.

The band began forming in 2006, and their debut album, "The Moment," was digitally released earlier this year by their label, Universal Republic. A physical album release is planned for later this year. For a young band, finding a way to attract attention via the Internet is as integral as playing a club gig. All of Atomic Tom's members are Twitter users, too.

"The Internet changed everything," Espiritu said. "It's kind of an exciting time because it forces everyone to adjust and be creative and find new ways to get your name out there."

The idea for the video came from Espiritu's 24-year-old brother Benjamin, who's hoping to go to film school.

"I've seen a lot of these music apps and they're kind of fascinating to me," Benjamin Espiritu said. "I thought, 'What would happen if iPhones kind of took over the world? If there could actually be a band that played straight through with iPhones, what would that look like?'" □

BUSINESS Aruba TODAY

NY to hold lawyers accountable on foreclosures

By DAVID B. CARUSO,
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — The chief judge of New York's courts implemented a new rule Wednesday requiring every lawyer handling a foreclosure to sign a form verifying that all paperwork in the case is accurate.

The move comes amid an uproar over accusations that mortgage lenders nationwide cut corners on paperwork and legal procedure as they moved to seize millions of homes. It follows a slew of other state efforts to challenge the foreclosure debacle.

Attorneys general in all 50 states and the District of Columbia are jointly investigating whether mortgage companies have violated state laws. In Maryland, an emergency measure approved this week by the state's highest court outlines how state judges can review foreclosures and stop them if documents are invalid.

In New York, attorneys there already have an obligation to ensure that the documents they present to the court are valid, but New York Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman said having them sign something affirming that all papers got a proper review will hold them accountable like never before.

"We want to make sure that everyone is focusing like a laser on these particular types of proceedings," he said. "It puts them on notice. That's what this is all about. We all have to make doubly sure that we are doing what we should be doing in the first place."

The rule requiring a signed affirmation applies to both new cases and the 78,000 foreclosure actions already under way in New York courts.

Lawyers handling pending foreclosure actions will probably need to go back to their clients and verify that all proper steps were followed, Lippman said. The form created by the court requires the lawyers to give the name of the bank employee who affirmed that the records were accurate and the date the conversation took place.

Some New York judges have complained loudly about rampant errors of varying severity in legal filings by banks seeking to foreclose on record numbers of homeowners.

In some cases, documents that were supposed to have been given an individualized review were signed by bank employees who never read them or checked them for errors. A few major banks froze all foreclosures nationwide while they reviewed their filings for problems. Two of the biggest, Bank of America and GMAC Mortgage, resumed proceedings this week.

Lippman said he was convinced the courts were seeing "systemic structural failings" in the foreclosure process, and he said judges and lawyers have a responsibility not to close their eyes to paperwork errors — even if they seem minor. "You are talking about tremendous consequences. You are talking about taking people's homes," he said. "Those papers have to be accurate. They have to be credible." □

Airlines lead stock market higher; Dow up 155

By DAVID K. RANDALL,
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — The stock market is rebounding a day after a big-sell off brought on by concerns over a slowdown in China.

Stocks rose in afternoon trading Wednesday, regaining much of the ground lost the day before, as traders saw overnight gains in China as an encouraging sign that the country's surprise interest rate hike will not dampen the global economy.

A batch of positive corporate earnings reports from companies like Delta Air Lines Inc. and Boeing Co. also helped send the stock market broadly higher.

The Shanghai Composite Index, China's main stock market benchmark, rose slightly in overnight trading. Those gains "helped create a more constructive tone for the trade this morning," said Nick Kalivas, an equity analyst for MF Global.

The fact that China raised interest without leading to a drop in stock prices "was a sign of strength," said Sandy Mehta, a portfolio manager in Value Investment Principals who is based in Hong Kong. "Raising rates show that they have confidence in their economy and it continues to grow strongly."

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 146.94, or 1.2 percent, to 11,125.56. The broader Standard and Poor's 500 index was up 14.3, or 1.2 percent, to 1,180.16, and the technology-focused Nasdaq composite index was up 25.7, or 1.1 percent, to 2,462.67.

Delta rose 11.1 percent after the company announced a profit driven by a 19 percent jump in passenger revenue.



In this Oct. 19, 2010 photo, Michael Jantz, right, and Douglas Johnson, both of Banc of America Specialist, Inc., work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Stock futures bounced back slightly, a day after the market was hammered by a surprise interest rate hike in China and mixed earnings reports.

(AP Photo/Henny Ray Abrams)

That helped push shares of competitors like Jet Blue and Southwest Airlines up more than 3 percent.

Boeing rose 2.2 percent after the aircraft manufacturer raised its profit forecast for the year and said that it expects to sell more commercial airplanes. Boeing was the top performer among the 30 companies in the Dow.

Every component of the Standard and Poor's 500 showed gains. Financials were the weakest as investors

continue to question what the impact will be over reports that the New York Federal Reserve will join institutional bond holders in an effort to force Bank of America Corp. to repurchase billions of dollars in mortgage bonds issued by Countrywide Financial, which BofA purchased in 2008.

The North Carolina bank was down 18 cents, or 1.5 percent, to \$11.63. Before the market opened, San Francisco bank Wells Fargo & Co. announced that it beat profit forecasts but missed slightly on revenues,

while Morgan Stanley reported a loss of 7 cents per share on

special charges. Shares of Wells Fargo were up \$1.34, or 5.5 percent, at \$25.90. Shares of Morgan Stanley edged up 9 cents to \$25.52.

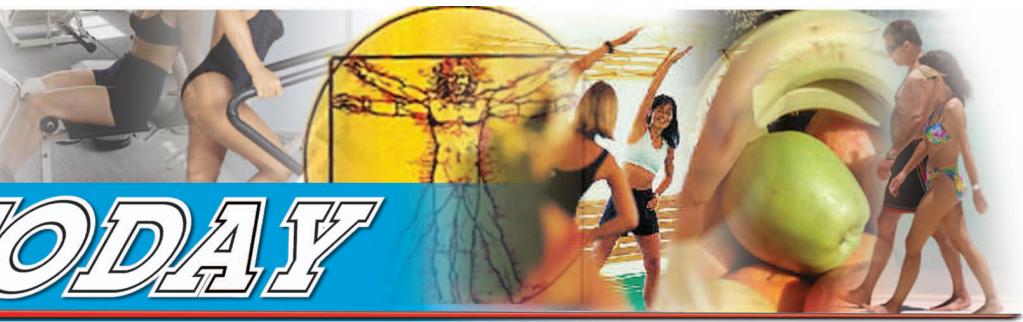
Traders will get more insight into the U.S. economy later Wednesday when the Federal Reserve issues its beige book report, which breaks down the health of the economy by region.

West Coast Internet companies eBay Inc. and Netflix Inc. will report results after the market closes.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng index fell 0.9 percent. The Euro Stoxx 50 index of blue-chip companies in Europe rose 0.2 percent. The dollar fell a little more than 1 percent against a broad basket of currencies.

Bond prices traded in a tight range. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note, which moves opposite its price, fell to 2.46 percent from 2.48 percent late Tuesday.

Shares of Delta were up \$1.21 to \$12.91, while shares of Boeing were up \$2.14 to \$71.19. Jet Blue was up 55 cents to \$7.06, and Southwest was up 48 cents to \$13.17. □

HEALTH**Aruba TODAY**

Hormone therapy raises breast cancer deaths: study



Workers install a pink ribbon in to promote awareness of breast cancer on the front of the White House in Washington, October 26, 2009

By Julie Steenhuysen

CHICAGO — Women who took hormone replacement pills had more advanced breast cancers and were more likely to die from them than women who took a dummy pill, raising new concerns about the commonly prescribed drugs, U.S. researchers said on Tuesday.

The study, published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, is the first to report more breast cancer deaths among women

taking hormone replacement therapy.

And it contradicts prior studies that suggest women taking the drugs had less aggressive, easier-to-treat breast cancers. “As opposed to the prevailing thought of two years ago, that cancers associated with estrogen plus progesterone would be favorable and not much of a problem, we are actually showing they are associated with an increased risk of death from breast cancer,” Dr. Rowan

Chlebowski of the Los Angeles Biomedical Research Institute, who led the study, said in a telephone interview. The findings include 11 years of follow-up from the Women’s Health Initiative study, which in 2002 found women who took estrogen plus progesterone for five years had higher rates of ovarian cancer, breast cancer, strokes and other health problems. Sales of U.S. market leader Wyeth’s combined estrogen plus progesterone pill Prempro have fallen by about 50 percent since 2001 to around \$1 billion a year. Wyeth is now owned by Pfizer.

TWICE AS MANY CANCER DEATHS

Chlebowski’s team analyzed data on the more than 12,000 women in the study. They found twice as many taking HRT died from breast cancer -- 2.6 per 10,000 per year versus 1.3 per 10,000 women per year -- compared to women who took a placebo.

Nearly 24 percent of the breast cancer patients who took HRT had tumors that had spread to the lymph nodes, compared with 16 percent of women taking placebos.

“All the scary cancers with unfavorable prognoses were also increased,” Chlebowski said, citing increases in aggressive forms of breast cancer, and not just estrogen-fed cancers that are easier to treat.

“And then for the first time we show deaths from breast cancer are significantly increased as well,” he said.

Pfizer said in a statement the company stands behind Prempro’s current labeling, which advises doctors to prescribe the drug at the lowest effective dose for the shortest possible period of time. But even that may be risky, suggests Dr. Peter Bach of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York, who wrote a commentary in the same journal.

Doctors can only be guessing that taking the pills at a lower dose and for a shorter time would be less harmful, Bach said in a telephone interview. Doctors “should be aware that this approach has not been proven in rigorous clinical trials,” Bach wrote.

“As a science-based company, we take this analysis seriously,” Pfizer said in a statement.

“It is important to view the data in the full context of both the symptoms of menopause as well as the extensive body of information -- developed over more than 60 years -- on the known benefits and risks of hormone therapy.”

Doctors note that the average age of the women in the Women’s Health Initiative study was 63, several years past menopause, and say the findings may not apply to women taking other forms of HRT, or to those starting HRT immediately at the time of menopause. □

Health Tip: Before You Begin Breast-feeding

There's no doubt that breast-feeding benefits baby in ways that bottled formula can't, the American Academy of Pediatrics says. Breast milk is unrivaled in nutritional benefit and in its ability to help prevent infection.

The academy offers these suggestions to women who are about to begin breast-feeding:

- Try to breast-feed as quickly as you can after the baby is born, as long as mom and baby are healthy and ready.
- Seek the advice and help of hospital staff, and consult online and community resources when you get home.
- First, concentrate on getting your baby to "latch" to your breast correctly.
- Improper latching is unacceptable, as it can frustrate baby and become painful for mom. □

Graco recalls 2 million baby strollers after 4 deaths

By Dhanya Skariachan

NEW YORK — Graco Children’s Products Inc, a unit of Newell Rubbermaid, is recalling about 2 million baby strollers sold before 2008 at major U.S. retailers, after four infants died of strangulation.

The news of the recall of the China-made strollers comes less than three weeks after Mattel Inc’s Fisher-Price recalled some 10 million toys and other items, renewing concerns about safety standards of infant products -- a good chunk of which are made in low-cost centers like China.

“We have taken appropriate reserves and do not expect a material impact on the company,” Newell spokesman David Doolittle said in an e-mail to Reuters.

The latest recall, made along with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, applies to Graco Quattro Tour and MetroLite strollers sold at retailers including Babies

R Us, Sears, Target and Wal-Mart between November 2000 and December 2007.

In addition to the four deaths, the CPSC said it was also aware of reports of five infants becoming entrapped, resulting in cuts and bruises, and one having difficulty breathing. “This recall involves strollers sold as long as 10 years ago, demonstrating the ongoing need for families to remain vigilant about hazardous products lurking in their homes,” said Dan Verakis, founder and CEO of SafetyBook.org, which runs a recall-monitoring service for consumers.

Earlier this year, Graco recalled another 1.5 million strollers after the CPSC received reports of children’s fingertips being amputated.

“We take this issue very seriously,” Doolittle said, adding, “this is a product category that is heavily regulated and therefore subject to a higher number of recalls.” □

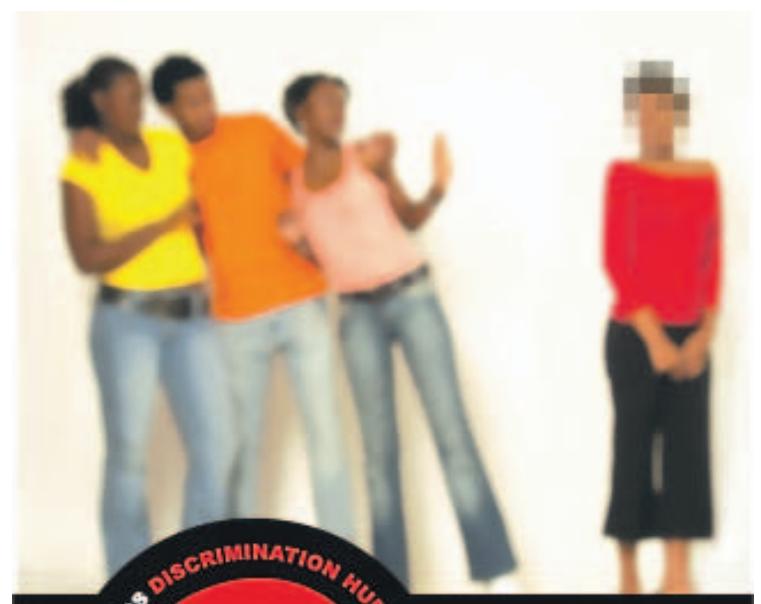
HUMAN HINTS

Release Unconscious Emotional Reaction 1

Emotional reactions are stored in the cells of our bodies. As children, we're faced with situations that require a reaction in order to survive. The survival reaction is then stored in the cells of the body to be accessed when similar situations arise in the future.

The body does not realize that time passes, we grow and situations change. As adults, the body still thinks it's a child trying to survive and make sense of things. When similar situations arise as adults, the same emotional reactions surface from the depths of the body, which thinks it still needs to survive.

The body's reaction is not our reaction. We consciously



ouch!

HIV/AIDS DISCRIMINATION HURTS! STIGMATIZATION HURTS!

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS HURTS EVERYBODY. HOW?

A red ribbon graphic is at the bottom.

know that we've grown, and that we no longer need to protect ourselves as if we were children. As adults, we'll exhibit unconscious emotional reactions and have no idea why we reacted that way. When the emotion subsides, we're shocked at our behavior because the unconscious patterns in our bodies often exhibit the opposite of what we think of ourselves.

When the unconscious emotional patterns do come out, they show themselves and give us an opportunity to see what is inside us. When they emerge, we have a chance to become aware of them. Different moments of our lives carry different themes, so the same patterns will tend to arise repeatedly.

Tomorrow, we'll explore a specific method of releasing the old emotional patterns while the physical body desperately clings to them.

Go to www.HumanHints.com to sign up to receive this column in your email each day.

~Quentin Danziger

Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has studied many avenues of alternative thought. HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice.

These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you chose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

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Swiss archaeologists find 5,000-year-old door



This undated photo provided by the Hochbaudepartment Zurich shows a 5,000-year old door that archaeologists in the Swiss city of Zurich have found and may be the oldest ever found in Europe. Chief archaeologist Niels Bleicher says the ancient poplar wood door is 'solid and elegant' with well-preserved hinges and a 'remarkable' design for holding the boards together. Bleicher said Tuesday, Oct. 19, 2010 the door has been dated to around 3,100-years B.C.

(AP Photo)

By FRANK JORDANS,
Associated Press Writer

GENEVA — Archaeologists in the Swiss city of Zurich have unearthed a 5,000-year-old door that may be one of the oldest ever found in Europe. The ancient poplar wood door

is "solid and elegant" with well-preserved hinges and a "remarkable" design for holding the boards together, chief archaeologist Niels Bleicher said Wednesday. Using tree rings to determine its age, Bleicher believes the

door could have been made in the year 3,063 B.C. — around the time that construction on Britain's world famous Stonehenge monument began. "The door is very remarkable because of the way the planks were held together," Bleicher told The Associated Press. Harsh climatic conditions at the time meant people had to build solid wood houses that would keep out much of the cold wind blowing across Lake Zurich, and the door would have helped, he said. "It's a clever design that even looks good."

The door was part of a settlement of so-called "stilt houses" frequently found near lakes about a thousand years after agriculture and animal husbandry were first introduced to the pre-Alpine region.

It is similar to another door

found in nearby Pfäffikon, while a third — found in the 19th century and made from one solid piece of wood — is believed to be even older, possibly dating back to 3,700 B.C., said Bleicher.

The latest find was discovered at the dig for a new underground car park for Zurich's opera house.

Archaeologists have found traces of at least five Neolithic villages believed to have existed at the site between 3,700 and 2,500 years B.C., including objects such as a flint dagger from what is now Italy and an elaborate hunting bow. Helmut Schlichtherle, an archaeologist for the conservation department in the German state of Baden-Württemberg, said finding an intact door was very rare, as usually only the foundations of stilt houses are preserved

because they are submerged in water for millennia. Without air, the bacteria and fungi that usually destroy wood in a matter of years can't grow, meaning many lakes and moorlands in Europe are considered archaeological treasure troves.

"Some might say it's only a door, but this is really a great find because it helps us better understand how people built their houses, and what technology they had," he said. Schlichtherle, who wasn't part of the Zurich dig, said over 200 stilt houses have been discovered in southern Germany alone, but to date no doors.

The Zurich scientists plan to exhibit their door once it has been carefully removed from the ground and soaked in a special chemical solution to prevent it from rotting. □

Astronomers say they've found oldest galaxy so far

By SETH BORENSTEIN,
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON — Astronomers believe they've found the oldest thing they've ever seen in the universe: It's a galaxy far, far away from a time long, long ago.

Hidden in a Hubble Space Telescope photo released earlier this year is a small smudge of light that European astronomers now calculate is a galaxy from 13.1 billion years ago. That's a time when the universe was very young, just shy of 600 million years old. That would make it the earliest

and most distant galaxy seen so far.

By now the galaxy is so ancient it probably doesn't exist in its earlier form and has already merged into bigger neighbors, said Matthew Lehnert of the Paris Observatory, lead author of the study published online Wednesday in the journal Nature.

"We're looking at the universe when it was a 20th of its current age," said California Institute of Technology astronomy professor Richard Ellis, who wasn't part of the discovery team. "In human terms, we're

looking at a 4-year-old boy in the life span of an adult."

While Ellis finds the basis for the study "pretty good," there have been other claims about the age of distant space objects that have not held up to scrutiny. And some experts have questions about this one. But even the skeptics praised the study as important and interesting.

The European astronomers calculated the age after 16 hours of observations from a telescope in Chile that looked at light signatures of cooling hydrogen gas.

Earlier this year, astronomers had made a general estimate of 600 to 800 million years after the Big Bang for the most distant fuzzy points of light in the Hubble photograph, which was presented at an astronomy meeting back in January.

In the new study, researchers focused on a single galaxy in their analysis of hydrogen's light signature, further pinpointing the age. Garth Illingworth of the University of California, Santa Cruz, who was the scientist behind the Hubble image, said it provides confirmation for the age using a different method, something he called amazing "for such faint objects." □

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Surgen esperanzas

Hallan pertenencias mineros atrapados en Ecuador

QUITO (Reuters) - Brigadas de rescate de Ecuador encontraron el miércoles artículos pertenecientes a dos mineros que permanecen atrapados a 150 metros de la superficie en un yacimiento de oro en el sur del país, devolviendo la esperanza de encontrar vivos a los trabajadores, dijeron autoridades.

Tras cinco días de iniciadas las operaciones de rescate, en un caso que ha rememorado lo vivido por 33 mineros en Chile, socorristas llegaron hasta el lugar específico donde se presume que estaban los dos mineros, que quedaron atrapados desde el viernes pasado por un derrumbe en el yacimiento Casa Negra.

El presidente Rafael Correa llegaría a la zona el miércoles para verificar las labores de rescate.

"Hemos encontrado dos lámparas de minero atadas y metidas dentro de una bota. Esto nos dice que los mineros están ahí (...) y no hay un mal olor característico como cuando encontramos a los dos primeros cuerpos", dijo



Miembros del equipo de rescate y mineros bajan a la mina donde cuatro trabajadores fueron atrapados durante un derrumbe en Portovelo, Ecuador. oct 16 2010. Brigadas de rescate hallaron muertos a dos de los cuatro mineros atrapados por un derrumbe en un yacimiento de oro en Ecuador, informó el sábado el Gobierno. REUTERS/Diario El Correo de Machala

a Reuters el subsecretario de Desarrollo Minero, Jorge Espinosa.

El fin de semana fueron encontrados los cuerpos de los otros dos mineros atrapados por el derrumbe.

Los trabajadores fueron aplastados por escombros,

Programa nuclear venezolano no preocupa a Brasil

WASHINGTON (AP) - Brasil no está preocupado por el nuevo programa nuclear de Venezuela, al que ve como un vecino que debe resolver sus problemas sociales.

"No tenemos preocupación ni vemos que Venezuela pase a ser un futuro agresor, como algunos países quieren hacer ver", dijo el miércoles el ministro brasileño de Defensa Nelson Jobim tras pronunciar una conferencia durante su visita a la capital estadounidense.

El presidente de Venezuela, Hugo Chávez, concertó la semana pasada con Rusia un acuerdo para la construcción de su primera planta nuclear. "Vemos a Venezuela como un vecino con problemas de desigualdad social que deben ser superados. Venezuela necesita enormemente desarrollarse. Damos una cooperación intensa de desarrollo agrícola para que los venezolanos aprendan de nuevo a sembrar", agregó. □

lodo y maderas que cayeron en el lugar donde desarrollaban la actividad extractiva.

La mina, operada por la empresa local Minesadco, está ubicada a unos 400 kilómetros al sur de Quito, en el sector de Portovelo, en la frontera con Perú.

El ministro de Recursos Naturales no Renovables encargado, Carlos Pareja Yanuzzeli, dijo a periodistas que equipos médicos y transporte aéreo estarían listos en la zona de la mina para transportar a los mineros hasta Guayaquil en caso de ser necesario.

El hecho se produce a pocos días de que 33 mineros fueron rescatados de un yacimiento en el norte de Chile después de permanecer por unos 70 días atrapados a unos 700 metros de profundidad. □

Hallan cuatro momias "intactas" de 1.150 años en capital de Perú

LIMA (Reuters) - Cuatro momias de 1.150 años de antigüedad, probablemente de tres niños y una mujer adulta, fueron halladas en un complejo ceremonial preincaico en la capital de Perú, dijo el miércoles una responsable del descubrimiento. Los restos pertenecerían a la Cultura Wari o Huari, que se desarrolló entre los años 600 y 1.000 después de Cristo -antes del Imperio de los Incas- y se extendió por casi toda la costa peruana actual y parte de los Andes del país sudamericano.

"Hemos encontrado una tumba intacta de esa época (...) al interior se ha podido observar que se encuentra un fardo principal y tres acompañantes que por el tamaño se trataría de infantes", dijo a Reuters la arqueóloga Gladys Paz, una de las expertas que trabajó en el importante hallazgo.

Las momias estaban en la cima de la mayor pirámide del complejo Huaca Pullana, construida por los antiguos habitantes de Lima y que fueron dominados por la Cultura Wari. Huaca Pullana es un sitio ceremonial ubicado en el distrito residencial limeño Miraflores. La zona está rodeada de acomodadas casas y modernos edificios y anexo al centro ceremonial funciona uno de los mejores restaurantes de Lima que lleva el mismo nombre.

El complejo, donde ya se hallaron momias y ofrendas aunque en mal estado, es considerado por expertos como una caja de pandora en Perú, donde los mayores restos arqueológicos están fuera de Lima o en lugares como Cuzco, que fue la capital del Imperio Inca que sucumbió al dominio español en el siglo XVI.

El Imperio Inca, cuya capital fue Machu Picchu, se extendió hasta el norte de Chile y el sur de Ecuador y Colombia.

La momia más conservada en Perú es la denominada "Juanita", cuyos restos congelados durante 500 años fueron descubiertos en 1995 en el sur del país a 6.380 metros sobre el nivel del mar.

"El fardo (funerario) principal mide aproximadamente 1,30 metros de diámetro. Su preparación con textiles de diversos diseños y colores policromos y falsa cabeza, demuestran que fue un personaje importante para la Cultura Wari", dijo Paz. La arqueóloga detalló que dos de los presuntos infantes hallados en fardos contiguos serían también de alto rango social y el tercero probablemente un niño sacrificado. Junto a los restos se encontraron varias vasijas de cerámicas, bolsas de textiles decorados con dibujos amorfos, canastas de juncos y mazorcas de maíz. □



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